



# Thatcher disbands think tank and delays Police Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Central Policy Review Staff, the Cabinet's "think tank", set up in 1971, by Mr Edward Heath, is to be disbanded at the end of July.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has decided, after consultation yesterday with her Cabinet colleagues, that "the purposes for which the CPRS was set up are now being met satisfactorily in other ways," a Downing Street statement said last night.

Earlier yesterday, the new Cabinet, meeting to complete the detail of the Queen's Speech, decided that the controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which caused the Government more trouble than any piece of legislation in the last session of Parliament, is not to be reintroduced until October.

The head of the CPRS, Mr John Sparrow, who led the 16-member unit of eight civil servants and eight people seconded from the Civil Service since April 1982, is to return to Morgan Grenfell and Company when the "think tank" is wound up. He received a warm tribute from the Prime Minister last night.

The decision to scrap the unit, which was overshadowed in *The Times* last Thursday, had been expected for some time. It is understood that Mrs Thatcher came within an inch of disbanding it in 1979 but was dissuaded by her then senior policy adviser, Mr John Hoskyns.

The Downing Street announcement last night pointed to the establishment or expansion of government departments of their own policy units.

complete their secondment in the Government, efforts will be made to fall in with their wishes.

The Cabinet put the final touches to the Government's heavy legislative programme, to be outlined in the Queen's speech opening the new session of Parliament next Wednesday, in a meeting that lasted an hour and 50 minutes.

Mr Leon Brittan, the new Home Secretary, intends to have a long look at the Police Bill, on which his predecessor, Viscount Whitelaw of Penrith had to make considerable concessions before it was lost through the calling of the general election. Mr Brittan is clearly anxious to avoid having to make any further embarrassing climbdowns when the Bill returns.

Ministers agreed that Bills to curb excessive rate increases by high-speeding councils and to set up a new authority for London Transport, on which a White Paper will be published shortly, will come in the next session.

But it was uncertain last night whether the legislation abolishing the metropolitan councils and the Greater London Council would come in the new session.

As expected, there will be a Bill implementing the latest stages of Mr Norman Tebbit's proposed trade union reforms. It will give union members the right to hold ballots for the election of union governing bodies.

Another Bill will privatize the National Bus Company.



Airport greeting: The Pope with Professor Jablonski, Polish Head of State

## Solemn return home for the Pope

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

His face taut with emotion, the Pope returned to his homeland yesterday, kissed Polish soil and immediately spoke out on behalf of those Poles who are suffering and are imprisoned for their belief. The first moments on Polish territory clearly set the tone of his eight-day pilgrimage: he will be setting out to heal the wounds opened up by martial law but never forgetting the church's duty to side with the victims.

The waiting crowds seemed to share the solemnity of the occasion: there was little carnival spirit in evidence despite the huge roar of approval that greeted the Pope as he was driven in his glass-encased vehicle from the windswept Warsaw airport to the centre of the capital to celebrate Holy Mass.

Red and white carnations were thrown in his path and some of the bystanders raised their fists in a V-for-victory sign, while there was some isolated cheering of "Solidarity, Solidarity" and "Solidarity welcomes the Holy Father".

However the choruses did not attract the notice of the police, many hundreds of whom were grouped at the ready in the side streets running parallel to the papal route. The police later asked the crowds to disperse and the people complied, heading for the cathedral.

Mr Lech Walesa, meanwhile, remained in Gdansk where he is under 4 hour surveillance by three security policemen for "his own protection". Mr Walesa, is convinced that they intend to stop him meeting the Pope in Czeszchowa but he is determined to attempt to do so at any cost.

After being welcomed by both the prime minister, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, and the Polish Head of State, Professor Henryk Jablonski, the Pope expressed his joy at being in his homeland, the first visit since 1979.

"The kiss placed on the soil of Poland has a particular meaning for me. It is like a kiss placed on the hands of a mother... A mother who has suffered much and who suffers anew," he said.

Sensing that he could not fill all the nation's expectations from the visit, the Pope spoke directly to the victims. "I myself am not able to visit all the sick, the imprisoned, the suffering, but I ask them to be close to me in spirit," he said.

The great gulf between the Government view - although some welcoming officials kissed the Pope's ring - and the church leadership was immediately evident. Professor Jablonski, who after all is the head of a Marxist state, said: "We will not abandon the roads of (Socialist) reforms, nor shall we cease striving to make our

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### Tomorrow

and graces Sunday Sheridan takes an ironic look at open-air in Britain. weekend breather Cotswolds and a Sweden - from the one to the other.

on the move to cope with the on a day trip to the. Plus: How to light work of living with baby.

out somewhere to eat after a at the theatre. rinking or Moselle? It ds where you are. nd new.

Millar examines contrasting styles of ledon 1983.

### ane puts Europe in race

the European Space rocket, performed to launch two satellites National Space Centre in Guiana. The launch hope into serious com- with the US in the ics satellite mar- nentially worth billions of

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### ld finance

ts to meet

finance ministers of the st Germany, France, and Japan will meet in xt month to discuss rates and economic

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### atgage blow

er mortgage queues likely yesterday as Bank announced that it g out of the home loans for the foreseeable future.

### ANCIAL TIMES

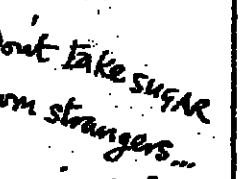
opened at the arbitration over the dispute. The index closed at 715.7.

### y spectacles

ational Health Service is ch the first spectacles specially for women, after ars of discussion and twenty years of Page 3

### les land

ing Sea Eagles arrived in from Arctic Norway and an RAF Nimrod, for the nature reserve on id of Rhum. Page 3



### rgar error

underwriters said re- contacts with the ers of the racehorse resulted from misun- ings, and confirmed re prepared to pay £7m

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### son's Cup

Wolf, ridden by Willie and owned by the racing manager, Lord ter, won the Gold Cup Ascot

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### son's Cup

On the economy, from Williams, and others: leadership, from Lord h; locked churches, rd Norwich; and others: Inner cities; nlin; Chile

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Chapple says survival before socialism for the US recovery may not itain. David Watt on lack of foreign policy. n: Is this a hanging nt? Friday Page: What- ame of Joan Heal? Health Supplement -page Special Report on medical care

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m Denzil Marris, Miss Dean.

### Watch on Lebanon activities

From Robert Fisk On board USS Virginia Eastern Mediterranean

The Soviet Union has sent one of its sophisticated destroyers into the Eastern Mediterranean along with a frigate and an intelligence-gathering ship, to monitor the activities of the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon and keep watch on units of the US Sixth Fleet off Beirut.

The 4,750-ton Kashin-class destroyer Sderzhanny equipped with Sam anti-aircraft missiles, is cruising up to only five miles off the Lebanese coast in apparent readiness to defend the smaller Soviet intelligence vessel from any Israeli air attack.

The possibility of a sudden Israeli military withdrawal from the perimeter of Beirut back to the edge of Sidon is of critical

## Kinnock ready to abandon pledge to leave EEC

By Anthony Revins, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock, the runaway contender for the Labour Leadership, is next week expected to ditch the party commitment to withdraw from the EEC.

It is known that even before the general election, and despite the party manifesto pledge, Mr Kinnock did not feel that withdrawal would be feasible, but Labour's soft left challenger for the leadership in now expected to argue that the accession of Spain and Greece will pave the way for new, long-term alignments within the Community.

Mr Kinnock's campaign organizers are hoping that he will do so by a statement or "manifesto" next week, but there was no suggestion last night that he would be attempting to modify his views on the need for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

One colleague of Mr Kinnock's said last night: "There will be no revisionism on the bomb."

Meanwhile, Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley issued simultaneous statements saying that they would indeed both be standing for the deputy leadership as well as the top party post.

The two statements did not, however, include any endorsements and suggestions of a "coalition" ticket were last night discounted by Mr Kinnock's supporters.

The two men said that they had decided to stand for the deputy's job after "representations" and in the interest of party "unity". The contest would also be conducted in a spirit of "comradeship", but it was noted that Mr Hattersley had failed to express Mr Kinnock's view: That he would be standing for work under the other man if he were elected leader.

Mr Peter Shore, another leadership contender, issued a warning that if the party followed the course of recent years, the country would be doomed to years of Conservative rule. The Labour Party would find itself pushed into a third place, "to a permanent minority role in British politics."

Mr Shore was joined in the contest by a close political ally, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, who announced that she, too, would be standing for the deputy leadership.

She joins Mr Michael Meacher, Mr Dennis Davies, Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley. Now that Mr Hattersley has agreed to stand for deputy, Mr Gerald Kaufman will no longer seek nomination.

Some members of the Kinnock camp are hoping that Mr Denis Healy and Mr Michael Foot will not stand in the Shadow Cabinet elections, to make way for the up-and-coming young men. There is widespread Commons speculation that old guard figures, such as Mr Stanley Orme, Mr John Silkin, Mr Merlyn Rees and Mr Brynmor John will stand aside.

Names of the young blood mentioned in yesterday's *Tribune* included Mr Robin Cook (Livingston), Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn), Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr), Mr Meacher (Oldham, West), and Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh, West).

Mrs Dunwoody: Fight for No 2 post.

## BSC gets £55,000 part-time chief

The Department of Trade and Industry last night confirmed the appointment of Mr Robert Haslam, chairman of Tate & Lyle, the sugar company, as the part-time chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Haslam, who is 60, takes up the post on September 1 at an annual salary of £55,000. Mr Ian MacGregor, the present chairman, is to extend his term to the end of August, when he takes on the £60,000-a-year chairmanship of the National Coal Board. He will remain a part-time member of the BSC.

Mr Haslam's appointment was announced by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who said the new chairman would spend half of his working week at the BSC.

Mr MacGregor, whose steel contract contained the controversial £1.8m "transfer fee" payable to the New York investment bank of Lazard Freres, drew an annual salary of £48,500 for the full-time post.

Mr Parkinson added that Mr Robert Scholey, the full-time deputy chairman of the BSC, is expected to play a key role in the future management of the corporation. This is believed to indicate that the BSC board under Mr Haslam is likely to appoint Mr Scholey as chief executive.

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## 12 expelled from Stowe after drugs ambush

By a Correspondent

Twelve pupils have been expelled and five others suspended from Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, after teachers uncovered a drugs ring by ambushing four boys who stole a master's car in the middle of the night to go to a party.

Last night, the headmaster, Mr Christopher Turner said: "We had to stamp out drug usage and quite honestly I'm very upset about the numbers involved."

Thames Valley Police drugs squad officers were told about the "cannabis ring" at Stowe, where the fees are £4,000 a year.

Mr Turner said "We had heard rumours about drug usage and I told the staff to be on the lookout. Then in the early hours of Sunday morning it was discovered that a master's car had been taken by four pupils."

"Masters were alerted and they managed to close the school barrier stopping the car before it was driven out of the grounds."

Mr Turner, aged 53, said that the four boys in the vehicle were questioned. They had admitted their parts in cannabis smoking at the school - and they named the others in the ring.

Mr Turner added: "I was compelled to expel 12 boys, all aged between 15 and 18, and rusticate five others. All 17 admitted smoking cannabis."

He added: "I have warned the 650 pupils that the use of drugs results in instant expulsion. They knew the rules."

A Thames Valley spokesman said last night: "Drugs squad officers were called in by the headmaster and substances were taken away for detailed examination. A report will be prepared and will be considered by our prosecutions department."

## Andropov becomes Soviet President

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Yuri Andropov was unanimously elected Soviet President yesterday at a session of the Supreme Soviet in the Great Kremlin Palace. There were no other candidates, and the decision was automatically approved.

The move means that, like Mr Brezhnev before him, Mr Andropov now holds three important offices: the party leadership, the state presidency, and chairmanship of the Supreme Defence Council.

It had been expected that Mr Andropov would become head of state shortly after being appointed party leader last November, but it has taken him seven months to combine the two posts. It took Mr Brezhnev thirteen years.

The Supreme Soviet also called for a five-power nuclear arms freeze which would pave the way for future arms reductions. It passed a resolution urging Britain, the United States, China and France to join Russia in declaring a freeze.

The post of President - formally speaking, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet - is a nominal one, but consolidates Mr Andropov's position as national leader. It has symbolic significance and enables him to deal with foreign leaders on an equal level.

Mr Andropov was nominated by Mr Konstantin Chernenko, his main rival for the party leadership last November. Mr Chernenko appears to have reestablished himself as a leading political figure, however, and the move was intended to underline Politburo consensus.

It is striking that although Mr Andropov is now President he was not in a position to make changes to the Politburo line-up at the Central Committee Plenum which preceded the Supreme Soviet.

Mr Chernenko praised Mr Andropov as a man of "human qualities, wisdom and experience", and said his appointment as President underlined the unity of party and state.

Mr Chernenko disappeared from public view earlier this year, but this week made a powerful speech calling for an ideological campaign to counteract President Reagan's "crusade against communism" and asserting that Russia would

Continued on back page, col 7

## BBC pulls out of Ascot

By Kenneth Gosling

Television coverage of the Royal Ascot meeting today and racing from Ascot Heath tomorrow has been abandoned by the BBC after members of its outside broadcast staff who began industrial action on Wednesday refused to sign undertakings yesterday to work normally.

The BBC said its action had been taken with regret; cameras and other equipment were withdrawn from Ascot last night. Transmissions from the BMW tennis championships from Eastbourne continued normally on both BBC channels yesterday, but if the dispute goes on the threat to the Wimbledon tennis championships on Monday becomes more acute.

Last night the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs said the BBC's action in asking for guarantees had changed a serious dispute about an industrial issue into what amounted to an attempt by the BBC to break the union.

When the stoppage began on Wednesday coverage of two World Cup cricket matches, including England's game against New Zealand, was blacked out.

The dispute is about the way the staff are paid allowances for working away from base. But there are various other issues, including a claim for "captive time" allowance - extra money for long periods spent away from home - and for staff to be allowed to go home overnight if they are within reasonable distance. Between 75 and 80 men are involved.

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, snooker's governing body, worried about over-exposure, has rejected television's bid to screen the Professional Players' Tournament in October.

## Famous two sue

Anna Ford and Angela Rippon are to sue TV-am for breach of contract over their dismissal as presenters in April

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## Soviet spy ship keeps eye on Israelis

The Soviet destroyer Sderzhanny cruising off Beirut importance to the Russians, whose Syrian allies are facing Israeli troops in the Bekaa Valley and are refusing to pull their army out of Lebanon.

From their station beside the Sixth Fleet, the Russians can listen in to Israeli radio frequencies along the coastal highway towards the Lebanese frontier, the main Israeli supply route to Beirut.

At least one large Israeli radio and logistics base, near the Zaharani oil terminal, is scarcely 20 miles from the nearest Soviet ships.

Any intelligence gathered by the Soviet ships is undoubtedly being passed to Damascus. So in an effort to "blind" the Russian vessels a few days ago an Israeli aircraft flew low over the Mediterranean and dropped communications-distorting "chaff" to black out the Soviet monitoring equipment in the Mena-class intelligence ship Kilden.

The Kilden - classified on board the nuclear-powered missile cruiser Virginia as an AGI (auxiliary intelligence collector) - is a 1,700-ton ship with a squat smokestack built at the Polish port of Gdansk. It appears to be carrying "Grail" missiles in addition to its ultra-sensitive radio detection equipment.

According to US naval officers, the Russians are worried that the Israelis, at some moment of hostilities with the Syrians, may bomb the Kilden to prevent Damascus obtaining vital information about the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon.

Moscow has not forgotten how Israeli jets bombed the Liberty - an American intelligence-gathering vessel - at the height of the 1967 Middle East war. On that occasion the Israelis said that the Liberty was mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.

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## NHS launches old-look spectacles for women after 20-year study

By David Hewson

One of the tardiest products of National Health Service bureaucracy, a new pair of spectacles will be launched within a fortnight.

The design, the first made specifically for women, is the end product of two years of discussion at the Department of Health and Social Security. But health officials have been deliberating over the future shape of the spectacles for nearly two decades.

When Mrs Barbara Castle was Minister for Health in the 1960s she initiated a programme to introduce replacements for the much criticized original range, but the final designs were not agreed.

The new spectacles are the result of an initiative by Dr Gerard Vaughan, while Minister for Health in the last government, once described the old range of glasses as being

"like something out of a museum".

For all the anticipation of its launching, the new frames are hardly in line with today's style, which favours lightweight, thin-armed, low-jointed, large lensed frames of colourful plastic.

The 924, as the model is known, has heavy lines, with a slight upsweep, giving a distinctly old-fashioned look. Given the vagaries of fashion, the current 524 plastic NHS frame introduced in 1948, may be considered more chic by some of today's spectacle wearers.

The Government is committed to going ahead with the launching and at least half a million pairs are ready for dispatch by about 16 manufacturers. They should be with opticians by July 1.

The 924 is only the second standard NHS frame to be made in plastic, and comes in four colour options, sherry, tan and lilac, all two-toned, and mottled brown.

The price has not yet been disclosed, but other frames cost from £2.05 for the plastic 524 to £13.05 for a plastic-coated metal frame in the style worn by John Lennon, the former Beatle. The price of NHS-subsidized lenses, £8 to £31, is additional.



Eyes have it: Amanda Dixon, aged 19, trying the new National Health Service spectacles for size yesterday. (Photograph Chris Milligan).

## 'Socialite' theory on river body

The heavily jewelled woman whose body was found, wrapped in cloth and weighted, in the river Trent near Nottingham on Tuesday could have been a businesswoman or an upper-class socialite, detectives said yesterday.

Police said they had few clues to the murdered woman's identity apart from the jewelry, worth £700, she was wearing and her teeth; dental records were being checked.

Det. Supt. Colin Rawlinson said: "She may well have been a well known socialite or professional woman, who had to keep up appearances. The jewelry is very tasteful, and her personal hygiene meticulous. Her teeth showed dental work of the highest quality, suggesting expensive private treatment."

## Knife killer jailed for life

A jilted man was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for stabbing his former lover to death on the Thames embankment.

Stanley Morris, aged 52, a porter, of Eversholt Street, Euston, used a long-bladed butcher's knife to inflict 88 wounds including nine to the heart, on Mrs Mary McCarr, aged 32, formerly of Belshill, Lanarkshire, the court heard.

## Rolls raider

Police were looking yesterday for a thief who used duplicate keys to steal £1,520 in cash and travellers' cheques, and camera equipment worth £300 from the boots of two Rolls-Royce cars parked at Ascot racecourse.

## Food summonses

Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday adjourned until September 19 44 summonses against the Cafe Royal, in London, alleging breach of food hygiene and health and safety regulations.

## Sea eagles flown to Scotland

By Ronald Faax

A batch of 10 young sea eagles arrived in Scotland yesterday from Arctic Norway on board an RAF Nimrod aircraft. They were banded, at fastest speed, for the national nature reserve on the island of Rhum off the coast of Scotland, where 52 young sea eagles have been released during the past eight years.

The arrival of the latest birds, noble-looking predators with an eight-foot wingspan when mature, coincided with

an announcement by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds that the experiment to encourage the return of sea eagles into the natural environment in Scotland was showing signs of success. Eggs were laid in two nests this year, but none hatched, probably because the parents were still immature.

The RSPB staff who found the nests and mounted a watch over them were disappointed, but confident that this could be

the first sure sign that the patient work by the society and the Nature Conservancy Council will prove successful next year.

Unlike the birds in the Norwegian colonies, the British sea eagles have been persecuted to extinction, mainly because of Victorian notions that anything with beak and talons does irreparable harm to livestock and is best seen stuffed in a show case.

## Fall in road accidents credited to motorways

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Britain's roads are twice as crowded as in 1960, but injuries from road accidents have more than halved. This is partly because of the expansion of motorways, from 192 km to 2,539 km, which are considered to be about six times as safe as ordinary roads.

The number of cars continues to rise despite the recession and rising petrol prices. The number of vehicles in use rose from 10 million in 1961 to 19,400,000 in 1981, according to the British Road Federation (BRF). The number of driving licences rose from 12,100,000 to 25,600,000. The number of women drivers is increasing faster than male drivers, an increase of 15 per cent over the past three years, compared with 3.8 per cent for all drivers.

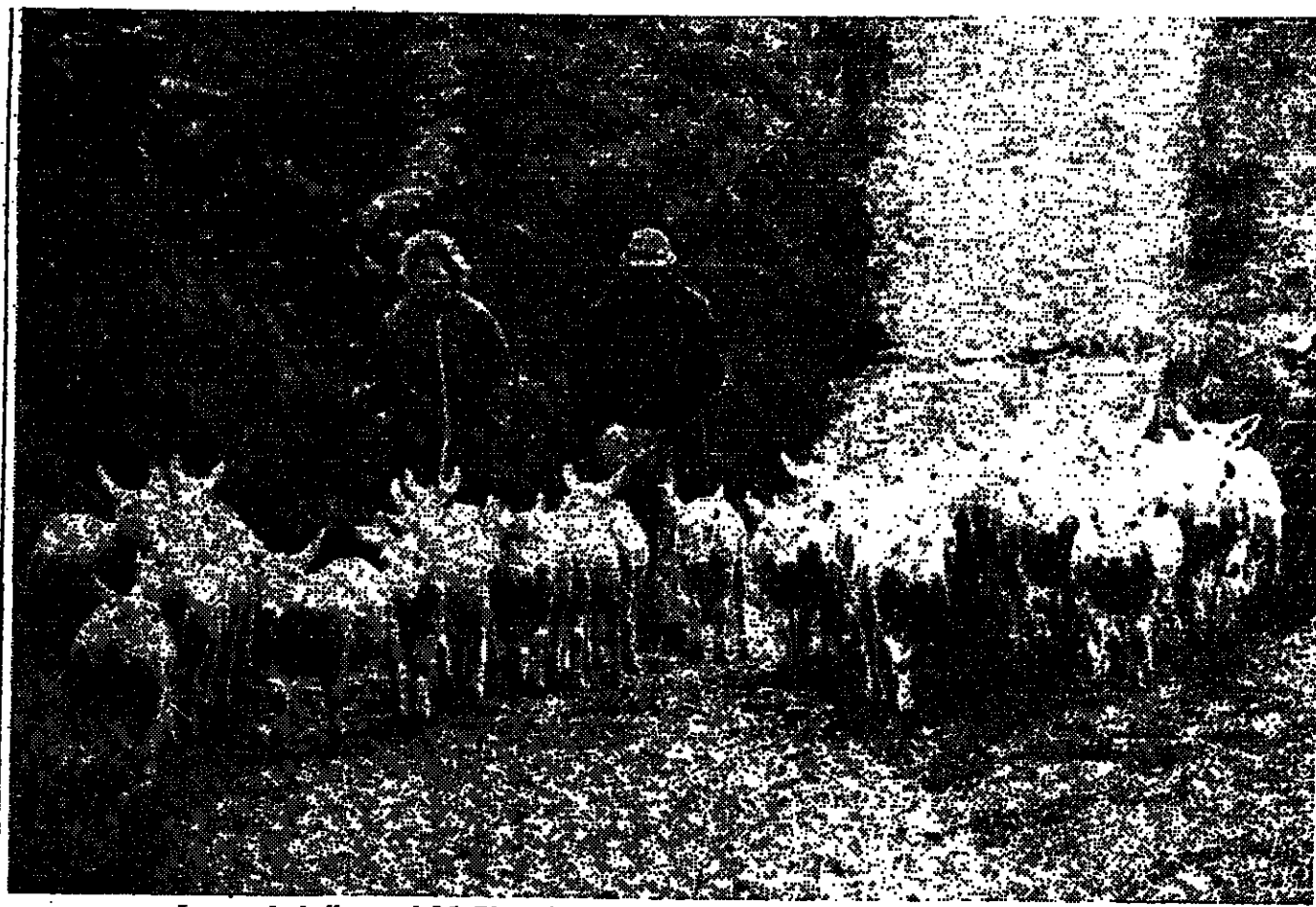
Some 93 per cent of passenger journeys and 82 per cent of

freight journeys are made by road. By 1981 there were 57 vehicles for every kilometre of road, compared with 29 in 1960.

Despite its high traffic level, Britain has one of the world's worst records on road expenditure as a proportion of state revenue. Road users paid more than three times as much in taxes last year as was spent on roads, the BRF claims, £9.3m compared with £2.8m.

Britain spent 2.3 per cent of state revenue on roads in 1981, compared with 7 per cent in France, 4.9 per cent in Germany, 13.4 per cent in Italy, 5 per cent in Japan and 4.7 per cent in the United States.

The BRF admits that road spending has improved in recent years but estimates that another £13,000m needs to be spent.



Long and winding road: Mr Pinney's flock makes progress. (Photograph: Andrew Varley).

## Trailing the golden hoof

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Aza Pinney is following the 400-mile trail of his ancestors by shepherding a flock of Cheviot sheep from Scotland to Exmoor.

With his dogs Roy and Shep, Mr Pinney, aged 47, has now trodden green pastures for five weeks on a three months trek southwards to resurrect the tradition of moving livestock from the Scottish hills to the lowlands of England.

Simple shepherd the Eton and Oxford-educated Mr Pinney is not. In 1970 he forsook the crook of his forebears for the television studio as an independent producer. But behind most film makers, he says, is an instinctive desire to return to their roots. Hence the fulfilment of an ambition which was originally inspired by his mother.

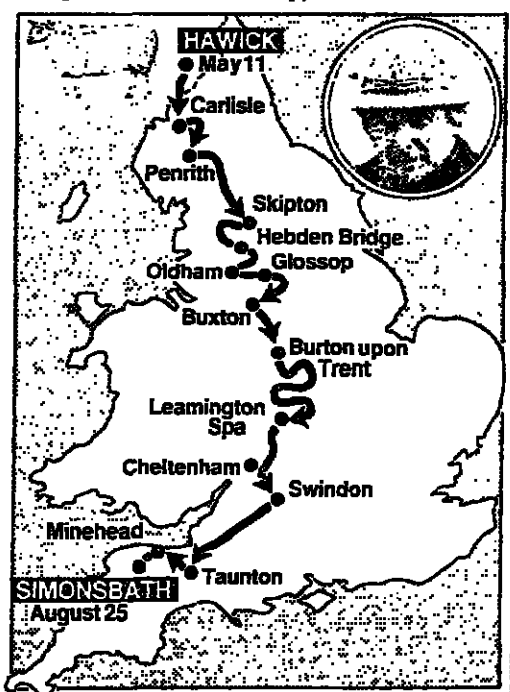
She told him about the legends of migrant shepherds who on arrival from distant parts of Britain found the sheep they had brought with them unable to survive the harsh environment of Exmoor, and so travelled to Scotland to purchase harder breeds.

Mr Pinney, who is married with six grown children, is aiming to investigate the importance of sheep and of the wool industry to his ancestors, and is making a television series in the process.

Interviewed at Heddon Bridge, West Yorkshire, he said: "Few areas of Britain have not felt the impact of sheep. It is not for nothing that the Lord Chancellor sits on the woolsack and that sheep are often referred to as the golden hoof."

Mr Pinney, a former chairman of the branch in Bridport, Dorset, of the National Farmers' Union, left the Borders town of Hawick on May 11 with 53 ewe hogs (and a large number of television technicians) for a steady four-and-a-half-mile-a-day journey south.

More than 250 farmers and landowners have given their permission for the flock to cross their land, and 81 have agreed to allow Mr Pinney to graze his sheep overnight.



## Child killer went back to work

From Our Correspondent

Robert Julian, a self-confessed child killer, was back at work on his market stall only a few days after being sent to a mental hospital, police disclosed yesterday.

Julian, a coin dealer, of Queen's Road, Wilburton, Northamptonshire, told the police that he had killed his baby son because "the Russians had landed" and he wanted him to die peacefully.

A Birmingham Crown court judge accepted his plea of not guilty to murdering his son on the ground of diminished responsibility. After Julian had admitted manslaughter he was granted bail on condition that he went to St Crispin's Hospital, in Northampton, for medical reports.

The court had been told that Julian was suffering from schizophrenia and was having hallucinations at the time of the offence last year. He ran naked from his home in the middle of the night carrying his son and attacked him in a field.

Det. Chief Inspector Robert Thorogood, of Northamptonshire police, said yesterday: "We can confirm that he did go out for a weekend, but unless there is a change in the bail conditions it is unlikely he will be out again."

Mr Peter True, the administrator of St Crispin's, said that Julian had been allowed out with the knowledge of medical staff as part of his treatment. "He is now staying at the hospital at all times."

## BBC criticized over youth music contest

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The BBC was accused yesterday by the heads of singing faculties at some of Britain's leading music colleges of being "highly irresponsible" for its plans to hold an international music competition.

In a letter to Mr Geraint Stanley Jones, controller of BBC Wales, the academics have asked him to drop the competition, which is due to be recorded in four weeks' time.

Young classical singers from 18 countries have agreed to take part in the contest, the Cardiff Singer of the World, described as being for singers of a minimum age of 18 on the threshold of their professional careers.

The letter, signed by Professor Lyndon van der Pump, of the Royal College of Music, on behalf of the head of singing at the Royal Academy, says: "We wish to express our profound disquiet at such a venture."

"Young singers of 18 are emphatically not on the threshold of their careers and in our view should not be exposed to the stresses and publicity that such a competition as this will demand."

The letter is also signed by Majorie Thomas, head of the singing faculty, Royal Academy of Music; Alexander Young, head of the school of vocal studies, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester; Neilson Taylor, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow; Elizabeth Haines, chairman, singing faculty, Trinity College of Music, London; Noel Barker, head of singing faculty, Guildhall School of

## Ford and Rippon to sue over dismissal

By Kenneth Gosling

Anna Ford and Angela Rippon, two of the original "Famous Five" of TV-am, commercial television's breakfast network, are to sue the company for breach of contract over their dismissal in April as presenters.

Miss Ford said yesterday: "A writ is in the process of being served. We hoped they would see sense and pay us without going to court. We hoped they would behave like gentlemen, but they have not."

She was speaking at a BBC reception marking 10 years of the radio programme *Checkpoint*. As soon as she arrived she was questioned about a wine-throwing incident in London earlier this week involving Mr Jonathan Aiken.

who took over TV-am after Mr Peter Jay was deposed. But she refused to be drawn, saying the incident had been "blown up out of all proportion".

She was clearly still angry, however, over what had happened to herself and Miss Rippon when the television station changed hands after a dramatic drop in its audience ratings. "I have not seen *Good Morning Britain* TV-am's breakfast show) in ages", she said.

Miss Ford also announced that she was to sue Mr Timothy Aiken, chief executive of TV-am, over remarks concerning herself in the *Daily Express*.

TV-am said yesterday: "We have not received a writ, nor any notification."

## Aids study in new VD unit

A research unit to investigate venereal diseases, made possible by an anonymous donation of £300,000, was officially opened in west London yesterday, Pearce Wright, Science Editor, writes.

Additional funds have been provided by the Wellcome Foundation for research on Aids, the lethal disease which has been particularly rife among some homosexual communities in the United States; it is thought to be caused by a virus.

The unit, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, is called the Jeffries Research Wing, after Dr James Jeffries, who has been senior venereologist at the hospital for 20 years.

It is believed to be the first purpose-built research unit for investigating sexually transmitted diseases constructed in Europe since the 1930s.

It is next to St Mary's Praed Street clinic, the busiest venereal disease clinic in the world.

## Atlantic air fares to be cut

By Our Transport Editor

North Atlantic air fares will drop in the autumn as airlines compete to fill empty seats after the summer peak.

Trans World Airlines announced yesterday a 25 per cent cut compared with last winter in the cost of return tickets booked in advance from London to New York and other American cities. The other main airlines on the route, British Airways and Pan Am, are expected to follow suit.

The new £258 London to New York return is still more expensive than the £99 single offered by People Express and is restricted to midweek travel, booked 60 days in advance. It will apply from September to March except for the Christmas fortnight.

TWA made no mention of People Express, describing the new fare as an attempt to prolong into the winter the excellent bookings for this summer.

## Police chief wins damages for libel

Commander Graham Stockwell, head of the Metropolitan Police fraud squad, is to receive "substantial" libel damages for an article in the *New Statesman* which falsely suggested that he had a "murky record", counsel told Mr Justice Comyn in the High Court yesterday.

Mr Charles Gray, for Commander Stockwell, said the *Statesman* and Nation Publishing Co. Mr Bruce Page and Q B Ltd - the publishers, former editor and printers of the magazine - and the journalist Anna Coote, had also agreed to pay Commander Stockwell's legal costs.

Mr Gray said Commander Stockwell, a policeman for 27 years, had an impressive record. On March 13, 1981, under the heading "New Cross Death Fire: police chief's murky record", the magazine published an article written by Ms Coote.

The article suggested that,

during an investigation in 1972 into the murder of Maxwell Confait, Commander Stockwell deliberately falsified the record of answers given during questioning by three young suspects.

"The article went on to suggest that Commander Stockwell, as officer in charge of an investigation into a fire in Deptford in January, 1981, which resulted in the death of 13 young people, had been responsible for the harassment and threatening of young witnesses by officers under his command."

Mr Jonathan Caplan, for the defendants, said they now recognized that the criticisms of Commander Stockwell were groundless. "Through me they express their sincere apologies to him."



A glimpse at their future: The Belk family, Mrs Wendy Belk, David, aged five, Louise, aged six and Jennifer, eight, at the Earls Court exhibition. (Photograph: John Voos).

## Selling software to the family

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Software for the family is one of the main themes of the four-day microcomputer exhibition, "The Computer Fair", which opened in Earls Court, London yesterday.

50,000 visitors are expected over the weekend to see and try the computers and accessories displayed by the 150 exhibitors.

Sinclair, Commodore, Texas Instruments and Atari are among the manufacturers represented at the fair. In the

past 12 months similar exhibitions mounted in Manchester, Birmingham and London have attracted more than 80,000 people.

The price of the hardware (computers) being offered by the manufacturers is dropping almost daily because of the severe competition. It is the software (the computer programs) which is gaining prominence. The fair has an abundance of companies which have emerged over the past

few years to provide extra support and peripherals which the microcomputer user is now expecting.

The days of the "boffin" being the typical owner of a home computer are long gone. More than 1 million of these devices have been sold to British households.

Price of admission is £3 for adults, £2 for children today and tomorrow from 10 am to 6 pm and on Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.





## Europe in the space market

## Ariane's flawless launch stakes claim to satellite bonanza

By Clive Cookson and Bill Johnstone

The European rocket Ariane launched two satellites on its "make or break" flight yesterday. The perfect performance puts Europe back into serious competition with the American space industry for billions of pounds worth of business, building and launching communications satellites.

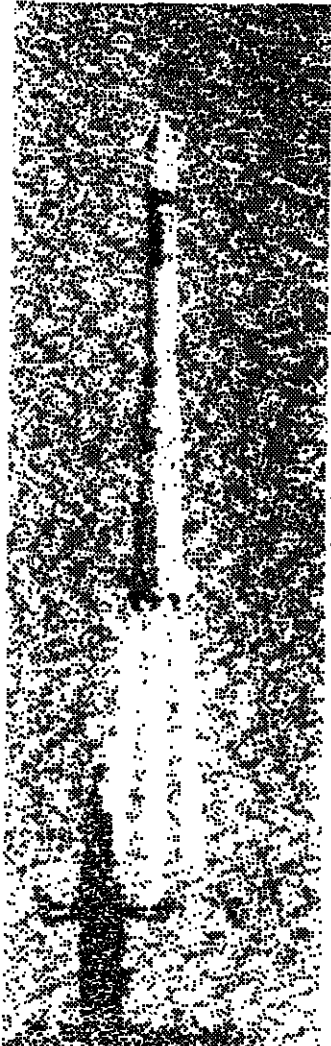
Ariane had crashed on its second and fifth missions, so yesterday's launch, the sixth from the French National Space Centre at Kourou, French Guiana, had to succeed. It will partially restore confidence in the European Space Agency's £750m programme to develop a rival launcher to the US Space Shuttle and the conventional rockets produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

But ESA officials said that the next firing would have to succeed, too, in order to put Ariane on target for the £5 billion worth of launching business - third of the world market - which the European space industry is seeking between 1985 and 1991. All launches are already booked for the next two years.

France has put up nearly 60 per cent of Ariane's development costs, with the remainder coming from 10 other European countries. Britain's contribution is only 2.5 per cent. Those proportions will determine the participants' share in industrial contracts and profits.

But Britain has a big role in the construction of the satellites themselves, as opposed to the launcher. Ariane's main payload yesterday was ECS 1, the first in a series of five European Communications Satellites for which British Aerospace is prime contractor. (The second payload, Amstar, is a small West German amateur radio satellite.)

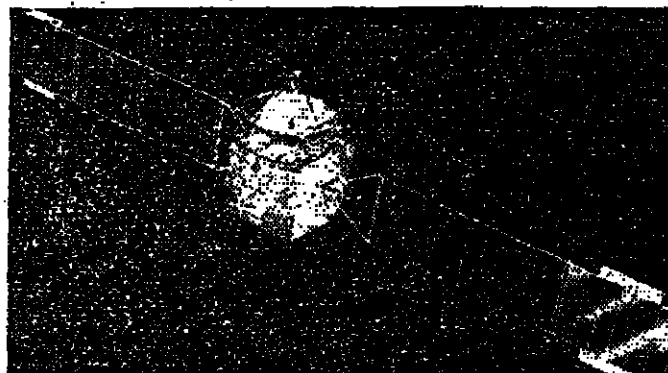
ECS 1 will inaugurate a new European telecommunications system, a joint venture of the Eutelsat organization. It will



Lift off: Ariane leaving its jungle base in French Guiana.

provide telephone, telegraph, special business communications services and television distribution.

Seven European countries will share ECS's nine transponders (channels) for television transmissions. Britain has been allocated two: one for Satellite



In flight: Artist's impression of the European Communications Satellite.

Television and the other probably for British Telecom.

Yesterday Ariane launched the one-ton ECS 1 into an elliptical "transfer orbit". Early today the satellite's booster rocket will be fired, to thrust it into "geostationary orbit" 22,000 miles above the Equator.

ESA mission controllers may not know for a few days whether the craft has ended up in exactly the right position. But the most hazardous phase of the operation - the initial launch - has been accomplished flawlessly.

Tomorrow Ariane's archival, NASA's manned Space Shuttle, is due to begin its next flight.

The other European countries and members of Eutelsat, which represents 20 member states to share the nine transponders for broadcasting television, are West Germany, which has two, and Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland, which have one each.

The satellite has two beams or footprints. The east beam covers Greece, Turkey, south Italy and East Germany, while the west beam, used by most of the nations, will be able to transmit to Britain, Scandinavia, France, northern Spain, northern Italy and West Germany.

The five-satellite project will

cost more than £100m. The second of the series, to be launched next year, will have two more channels devoted to sophisticated business communication. The success of Ariane will not only mean that the European nations have a space vehicle capable of launching their own satellites, but also a significant proportion of the 250 commercial satellites which are expected to be launched by 1991.

According to M Laurent Fabius, the French Industry Minister, who watched the launch: "This is a magnificent success. I am proud that my country and Europe can claim a leading place in the domain of space."

News International, the owner of Times Newspapers, the *News of the World* and the *Sun*, has made a bid for 65 per cent of Satellite Television the company which will operate one of the British transponders.

The company has been transmitting on the European Orbital Test Satellite (OTS) the forerunner of the satellite launched yesterday.

Goldcrest, the British company which has been responsible for financing films like *Gandhi*, *Local Hero* and *Chariots of Fire* has formed a partnership with four American partners, and intends to start a similar service next year.

## Syrians are blamed for death of 14 civilians

From Robert Fisk Beirut

In a savage new outbreak of killing in the Syrian-occupied northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, gunmen firing from a car killed up to 14 people and wounded another 17 as they ran screaming for cover near the harbour.

According to Lebanese state radio, a white Mercedes bearing diplomatic licence plates drove past a row of shops near the port as gunmen inside the vehicle sprayed the pavements with automatic fire.

The Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Syrian troops had come under fire during the morning and had killed the civilians when they shot back wildly at their attackers. Further reports from Tripoli suggested that the gunmen were themselves in civilian clothes but that the shooting followed the discovery of two Syrians murdered earlier in the day.

Meanwhile in southern Lebanon the Israeli Army maintained its siege of the village of Deir Qanoun En Nahr six days after three Israeli soldiers had been killed there in a guerrilla ambush. According to a spokesman for the United Nations Force in Southern Lebanon, in whose area the village lies, Israeli troops prevented UN soldiers from distributing food and milk to the villagers. The international Red Cross also complained that the Israelis had refused them permission to enter the village on 15 occasions.

During yesterday morning Israeli soldiers escorted into the village two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers of Major Saad Haddad's private army. What the major's men were doing there was not revealed. Several people among the village's population of 3,000 have fallen ill and the Israelis have permitted them to leave for medical treatment in neighbouring towns.

## Israel shows Britain how to handle war correspondents

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's well-honed system of military censorship and the elaborate arrangements for domestic and foreign journalists to cover its many wars are under scrutiny by a team of independent British experts sent here by the Ministry of Defence in London.

The team, headed by Vice-Admiral Anthony Wherstone, is part of the larger and little-publicized Censorship Study Group established by the Ministry in the aftermath of the fierce criticism of the British Government's handling of the news media during the Falklands campaign.

Others involved in the investigation include Mr John Grant, a former Deputy Editor of *The Times*, and Mr John Thompson, Director of Radio, of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and a former journalist with *The Observer*.

British and Israeli war correspondents have been questioned about the ways in which the Israeli Army helps and hinders those covering its operations some of them emphasized that one reason for its successful relationship with the news media was the absence of the civilian Defence Ministry "minders" so much criticized for their negative attitude in the Falklands conflict.

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Hall, assistant secretary of the group, said that a number of British reporters, including Mr Max Hastings, of *The Standard*,

had spoken highly of the Israeli system as it operated here during the 1967 and 1973 wars.

At a number of meetings, Israeli government spokesmen have expressed admiration for the way Britain was able to exclude the world's press from the Falklands, and yet secure a generally favourable coverage while the opposite happened to Israel during its invasion of Lebanon.

Among those questioned are Brigadier-General Yitzhak Shani, Israel's chief military censor, and Brigadier-General Yacov Even, the chief military spokesman, who was the target of much internal criticism as a result of critical reporting of the war in Lebanon.

Members of the group have already visited Nato headquarters in Brussels. It is understood that the final report is likely to concentrate on recommendations for handling the news media in a future "European theatre" war other than in an isolated conflict like the Falklands war.

When the findings are submitted later this year by the overall chairman, General Sir Hugh Beach, they are expected to rule out as impractical and undesirable the mass telephone tapping practised by Israel to ensure that all correspondents adhere to the guidelines laid down by the military censor.

An independent set of proposals is also being formulated inside the Ministry of Defence.

## Diplomats pave way for Lebanon pullback

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Diplomatic moves have begun to pave the way for the partial pull-back of the Israeli Army in Lebanon to a new front line which is expected to run parallel with the Al Awwali river, about 27 miles from Israel's border.

Lebanon was discussed here yesterday by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Samuel Lewis, the US Ambassador. In Washington Mr David Kimche, the Director-General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, is holding a series of talks with American officials.

Confirmation that Israel is planning to consolidate its troops, in an attempt to cut down on its casualty toll, was given in a television interview by Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, who did "not expect" Israeli troops to be in Lebanon for another winter.

On the key issue of redeployment, Mr Arens made it clear that Israel's decision was not conditional on American agree-

ment. "We are thinking, and planning, and beginning to discuss the subject with elements with whom there has been cooperation," he explained. He also hinted at the possibility of new Israeli retaliatory raids against guerrilla bases still in Lebanon.

The main Israeli goal is to ensure that the vacuum left by the exit of its men from the troubled Chouf mountains is not filled immediately by the Syrians, or by reformed guerrilla units. The present discussions are aimed at determining that "friendly forces" will enter the area.

Plans under review are understood to centre around an extended use of a possibly reinforced multinational force and a wider deployment of the still weak Lebanese Army.

● *Ethritic critical*: Mr Simcha, the Israeli deputy Prime Minister, was yesterday in a coma and in a critical condition after suffering a stroke.

## Nerve gas setback for Reagan

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The House of Representatives has turned down President Reagan's request for about \$115m (£77m) to resume production of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

There has been a *de facto* freeze on the production of such weapons by the United States for the past 14 years.

The Democratic-controlled House on Wednesday rejected by 216 to 202 a compromise proposal to begin production of the new binary weapons on October 1, 1985. Instead it voted by 256 to 161 to continue the moratorium on production of chemical weapons.

Mr Reagan had lobbied Congress vigorously to approve about \$1,000m for chemical warfare in the 1984 budget. Of this \$11m was sought for production of binary chemical weapons, which mix two relatively harmless chemicals in flight to produce nerve gas.

The House on Wednesday, however, approved the remainder of the funds for defensive equipment in any chemical warfare.

The Republican-controlled Senate is likely to approve the President's request for production funds. But the whole matter would then have to be fought out in "conference" between the Senate and House.

## W German celebration turns sour

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Today is the thirtieth anniversary of the uprising in East Berlin, when groups of workers protesting at the higher work norms decreed by the East German authorities rose up in revolt against the Soviet occupying forces and were quickly suppressed by the tanks of the Soviet Army.

Since then June 17 has been celebrated in West Germany as a national holiday in affirmation of the concept of German unity. This year, however, the occasion, which has already begun to seem anachronistic to most West Germans, has become a point of bitter argument between those who insist on a formal restoration of the goal of German unity and those who believe such declarations to be provocative and outdated.

A recent poll showed that about 71 per cent of the West German population now believe formal unity with East Germany is no longer possible. A large percentage also believed that relations between the two states could be improved only by talks and negotiations.

Left-wing politicians have called for the dropping of June 17 as a national day, saying West Germany should more appropriately celebrate the anniversary of the federal republic's foundation in May, 1949. Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, insisted that the anniversary should still be observed as the proof of the unbreakable will of all Germans for reunification in unity and freedom.

The flashpoint of the celebrations today will be Berlin, where the uprising took place and where the East-West division is most visible. A torchlight procession to the Wall is planned for this evening by a right-wing organisation "Con-servative Action" and this threatens to provoke counter-demonstrations by left-wingers. The marchers will also go to Kreuzberg, the run-down area of West Berlin where the large colony of Turks is based, and the demonstrators will carry banners and shout slogans calling on the Turks to return to their homeland.

Herbert von Weizsacker, the ruling mayor, has denounced the march as an unnecessary provocation.

The anniversary is being ignored in East Germany.

## Long live the Princes - in error

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday visited Shelburne, Nova Scotia, which is celebrating its bicentenary. The town was originally settled by Americans loyal to the British crown who were persecuted after the American War of Independence.

But the Prince made a promise that will be hard to keep: After unveiling a commemorative plaque he said, "I hope that we can send our son William back here to celebrate your tercentenary."

The only problem will be that by then, Prince Charles will be aged 134 and his son will be 101. The Prince seemed to have realized his mistake and smiled sheepishly as soon as he had said it.

## Trains stop to foil Sikhs

Chandigarh (AFP) - All train services in Punjab today have been cancelled to counter plans by Sikh activists to block the railways in protest at the Indian Government's refusal to accept their political and religious demands.

An estimated 450 Sikhs were rounded up and further arrests were expected. The leadership of the Sikh Akali Dal party had ordered its 100,000 volunteers to squat on the railway lines and sing Sikh hymns for six hours.

## Husband gave wife bullet

Lyons (AFP) - Evelyne Muxart, 20-year-old French housewife, woken by a sharp noise in the night, noticed a trace of blood in her hair. She got up, washed it off and returned to bed with her husband.

Next day a violent headache would not wear off and finally, 10 days later, she went to the doctor. X-rays showed a .22 bullet in the top of her skull. Her husband, Bernard, 30, awaits trial for attempted murder.

## Sirhan regret



Sirhan Sirhan (above) the assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, told a parole board at Soledad, California, that he was being punished as a political prisoner. He said he had been drinking when he killed Senator Kennedy in 1968 and now regarded his death as a tremendous loss.

## Ferry sinks

Jakarta (Reuters) - More than 80 Indonesians were feared dead after an inter-island ferry carrying schoolchildren sank in the Banda Sea south-east of Sulawesi, (formerly Celebes).

## UN stays on

New York - The UN Security Council extended for a further six months the mandate of its peacekeeping force in Cyprus and urged the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to continue their search for a political settlement to the dispute.

## Off the hook

Cairo (Reuters) - Charges of nepotism and corruption against Fuad Ibrahim Abu Ismail, former Minister of Industry, dismissed in March after a \$100m scandal involving members of the late President Sadat's family, have been dropped for lack of evidence.

## Reagan rebuff

Moscow (AFP) - President Reagan failed to reply to a letter from a Soviet schoolgirl, Tatiana Fomina, asking him what he planned to do for world peace, the newspaper *Pravda* said.

Her letter sent in January to "President Reagan, White House, Washington, USA" was returned with a stamp indicating the address was incomplete and the addressee unknown.

## Will challenged

Key West, Florida (Williams) - Mr Walter D. Dakin Williams, aged 64, brother of the Tennessee Williams, filed for revocation of the playwright's will, charging he was not mentally competent when he signed it in September, 1980. In an earlier will, Mr Dakin Williams was the primary beneficiary of the estimated \$11m estate.

## Rugby alert

Wellington (Reuters) - Extra police will be on duty at tomorrow's Rugby Union international here between the British Lions and the New Zealand All Blacks. Protesters are expected against plans by the New Zealand Rugby Union to go to South Africa next month for invitation matches.

## Air Force officer wrote message in own blood

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A white Zimbabwe Air Force officer who slashed his wrist in a police cell wrote a message in his own blood as a sign of his innocence in the sabotage of an aircraft. The High Court here was told yesterday.

Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, giving evidence for the second successive day in the Thornhill sabotage trial, said that, after being subjected to electric shock torture which he believed was likely to continue, he had decided to commit suicide.

The officer said he had barricaded his cell before slashing a wrist with broken glass from his spectacles. He did not want his suicide to be interpreted as a confession and wrote in his blood on the cell floor, "CID torture with batteries."

Air Lieutenant Lloyd is the fifth of six accused Air Force officers, all of whom have denied complicity in the sabotage of aircraft.

On Wednesday the officer, aged 31 and born in Manchester, testified that during the course of his interrogation police had offered him allies and help on the authority of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime

Minister. Z\$5,000 (about £3,400) in foreign currency and an air ticket to anywhere he chose, if he would give state's evidence.

On another occasion earlier this year, he said, he was brought to Harare for a meeting with Mr Godfrey Chidyaukutu, the Attorney General, and Mr Honour Mkhushi, who is appearing for the state in trial, and was again asked to testify for the state in return for immunity. Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, the sixth accused, had also been at the meeting and had been made a similar offer. They had both refused.

Air Lieutenant Lloyd said he had been detained soon after the sabotage and then released. During 15 days at liberty he had been urged by relatives to flee the country.

"I rejected it out of hand," he said, "I was an innocent man." During the days of intensive interrogation after his second arrest, the officer said he was told that Air Marshal Norman Walsh, who retired as commander of the Air Force on the day the trial started, was involved in the sabotage and was on the Air Force Board of inquiry was a cover-up.

## Kenya MPs in 'traitor' rumpus

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

In an often noisy parliamentary debate, Mr Eliud Owino, Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, said Mr Charles Njonjo, Minister for Constitutional Affairs, was the target of recent suggestions that a "traitor" was being groomed by a foreign power to become a future President of Kenya.

His remarks were greeted with applause, but Mr Njonjo, who was present throughout the 90-minute debate, challenged Mr Mwanga to repeat his remarks outside parliament, where he would not be covered by parliamentary privilege.

The debate was reported prominently in all the Nairobi newspapers yesterday. It was raised as an urgent issue by a backbench MP over reports of a church service in Mr Njonjo's rural constituency near Nairobi last weekend, at which prayers were said for President Moi and for peace.

When the acting Speaker at first refused to allow the debate, many MPs walked out, leaving the House short of a quorum. Later in the day the issue was raised again, and the Speaker allowed the debate to go ahead.

Many members said the church service, which attracted 3,000 people, was partly political, and alleged that it was intended to demonstrate support for Mr Njonjo against his opponents.

Mr Njonjo, speaking with difficulty over interruptions, said he attended the church service but took no part in it. He said the debate was based only on a press report of the service. He said he had always been loyal to President Moi.

## Tear gas on Soweto anniversary

From Michael Hornsby Soweto

Police used tear gas to disperse several thousand blacks as they emerged from a service at the Regina Mundi Catholic Church here yesterday, commemorating the seventh anniversary of the start of the Soweto riots which left more than 600 people dead across South Africa.

A senior police officer, Colonel Leon Mletet, said the police had moved in to counter sporadic stone-throwing by small groups of blacks, and that some skirmishing was still going on late in the afternoon. The rioters had stoned two buses and set a third on fire. They also damaged a police vehicle.

In a later statement, the Public Utilities Transport Corporation announced that it had stopped its buses when entering the central areas of Soweto as a result of the clashes, and that 30 vehicles had sustained broken windows.

Blacks still inside the church, who were able to speak on the telephone, said the police had broken down the doors and hauled worshippers outside. They arrested a number of them, including Mr Lybon Mabasa, the president of Azapo (African People's Organisation), the leading Blacks Consciousness group.

As people left the church they were singing freedom songs and shaking clenched fists. According to police estimates, some 4,000 people attended the service, and another 1,000 gathered outside. The police would not say how many were arrested.

Homelands loophole, page 10



## Bomb terror in Turkish bazaar

A Turkish policeman calling for help as he carried a wounded youth from the sixteenth-century covered bazaar in Istanbul after a grenade and gun attack yesterday by two unidentified terrorists.

One of the attackers died when he fell on his own grenade after being shot by police, Rasit Gurlek writes. Two people, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed and 23 people injured in the attack and subsequent shoot-out. The second attacker escaped into the crowded bazaar.

Eye-witnesses said that the terrorists were Armenians. If this is confirmed, the attack is the second such terrorist action in Turkey within a year. In August last year a

suicide commando of the "Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia" (Asala) raided the Esenboga airport here, killing nine people and injuring more than 70.

One of the terrorists was killed by the security men and the other, Levon Ekmekejian, captured during the raid, was hanged earlier this year after his trial.

The Armenian underground organisations have so far killed 33 Turks, mostly diplomats, in a 10-year campaign to avenge the alleged massacre of mass deportation of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915.

Turkish governments have rejected the accusations of genocide.

## Moroccan local poll rigged, parties claim

From Godfrey Morrison Rabat

Morocco's Parliament was summoned to meet late yesterday to hear the Government's response to allegations that last week's local elections were rigged.

The charges that the authorities manipulated the poll have come not only from the communist Parti du Progres et du Socialisme and the socialist Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires but also from the Istiqlal, the second largest party in the government coalition.

The conduct of the elections has also been criticized by the Rassemblement National des Independants, the biggest party in Parliament, which has been widely called "His Majesty's loyal opposition". It is led by Mr Ahmed Osman.

## Channel sludge dumping halted by Greenpeace

By David Nicholson-Lord

Greenpeace, the international environmentalist group, yesterday forced abandonment of the dumping of toxic sludge in the English Channel off Le Havre after volunteers in diving gear swam on the sludge in inflatable beds.

Six crew members from the Greenpeace vessel *Sirius* boarded the dumping barge five miles from Le Havre and later, backed by about 20 fishing boats from French channel ports, immobilized it by tying its anchors. The French barge company yesterday refused to continue with the dump.

The action was mounted in protest at the dumping of toxic metals at Le Havre and five other sites, which Greenpeace says is polluting the southern North Sea.

## Copper strike challenge to Pinochet regime

Santiago (Reuters) - Chile's powerful Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC) has called a national 24-hour strike for today to demand the release of Senator Rodolfo Seguel, its president.

The illegal strike call is the most serious labour challenge to the rule of President Augusto Pinochet since he came to power in a military coup nearly 10 years ago.

Senator Hugo Estivalde, the union's acting president, told journalists that even before the strike workers in one division had voted to strike from 8am yesterday for 48 hours.

A Chilean judge ruled on Wednesday that Senator Seguel, who was arrested after a day of violent anti-government protests on Tuesday, would stay in custody while he investigated

new charges against him.

Sector Seguel is president of the Workers' National Command of Five Labour Organizations including the CTC, which called for peaceful protests that turned into widespread rioting in Santiago after dark.

A boy aged 15 was shot dead and several people received injured as riot police used tear gas, water cannon and batons to break up crowds.

Because the CTC is itself made up of many unions, labour analysts said a positive response to the strike call from them all was unlikely.

The copper industry is the mainstay of Chile's economy, accounting for almost 10 per cent of its gross domestic product.

Leading article, page 11



# Summit must take radical decisions to save EEC from terminal decline

The whole future of the European Community is at stake when leaders of the 10 member states meet in Stuttgart this afternoon.

With the EEC staring bankruptcy in the face and Mrs Thatcher intent on forcing her reluctant colleagues to agree to a substantial refund in Britain's contributions, this summit will have to take radical and far-reaching decisions if the Community is not to stagnate.

Time and money are both running out and unless the 10 leaders resolve to put an end to the indecisiveness which has characterized the EEC increasingly in recent years, there are fears in Brussels that the EEC could begin to unravel.

Mrs Thatcher and her insistent demand for a British budget rebate can be relied on to concentrate the minds of the other heads of government on the urgency of the problem. She will not be content with anything less than a negotiable cheque made out in Britain's favour.

If she does not get it, she will certainly precipitate the "extremely serious situation" threatened by Sir Geoffrey Howe, her new Foreign Secretary, after a very inconclusive round of talks with other Foreign Ministers on the subject last Monday in Luxembourg.

The amount at issue is likely to be about £280m. This is the difference between the £530m Britain feels it deserves and the £250m which is the most France appears likely to concede. The amount at issue is thus tiny compared with the Community's £15,000m budget.

The hard and wearisome negotiations will have to be concentrated into the first half of the meeting, since President Mitterrand intends leaving at luncheon tomorrow to take part in ceremonies commemorating the forty-third anniversary of General de Gaulle's radio broadcast from London in 1940, which led to the creation of the Free French movement.

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The argument will not be made much easier by the paper being put forward by the West German presidency for decision at the meeting. This is essentially nothing more than a resume of the discussions in Luxembourg last Monday, plus a return of West German compromise conclusions aimed at finding ways for saving money inside the Community.

The approach ran into considerable opposition in Luxembourg and there is little to indicate it will receive a more favourable hearing in Stuttgart. Brussels diplomats believe that the weakness of the paper reflects a power struggle inside the West German Cabinet between Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the money-conscious Finance Minister, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.

Beyond trying to get agreement on the rebate, Mrs Thatcher will also be pressing for swift action to reform the financing of the Community.

She will be urging the British view that a series of extra Foreign Ministers' meetings will have to be arranged between now and Christmas in order to agree necessary changes, including measures to cut agricultural spending.

Year	Total EEC budget	Britain's net contribution (million ECU)	Rebate (million ECU)
73	2,120	102	31
74	2,177	121	32
75	2,612	157	33
76	3,329	187	34
77	4,088	222	35
78	4,838	267	36
79	5,338	312	37
80	5,838	357	38
81	6,338	402	39
82	6,838	447	40

\* The sharp increase in 1979 is due to a drop in the value of the pound as well as to increased spending.

This idea is expected to run into stiff opposition from a number of countries, but the fact that the EEC looks as though it cannot avoid bankruptcy next year, unless decisions are taken quickly means there could be grudging agreement on such a system of meetings.

This would add a considerable work-load to Foreign Ministers, who are also likely to be asked to speed negotiations for Spanish and Portuguese entry.

The other really contentious issue at the meeting is the proposal drawn up jointly by Herr Genscher and Signor Emilio Colombo, the Italian Foreign Minister, who seeks to create a greater sense of European union.

Herr Genscher is hoping to crown the West German presidency with the signature of this "solemn declaration", as it would be known, by the summit on Saturday, before President Mitterrand leaves.

Since Denmark and Greece still have strong objections to the paper, there could still be prolonged argument on it and this would add into the time available for discussion of the financial problems.

There will also be some pressure for the summit to revive the EEC's dormant Middle East initiative and to see if there is any way in which it can influence events in Lebanon.

Having been criticized for bad preparation of the March summit, which took place just after the West German elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has put together a daunting agenda for Stuttgart.

Despite the fact that it is to continue over three days, there is a prevalent view in Brussels that the meeting will not have enough time to take the decisions the EEC desperately needs.

## Supreme Soviet in unison



Block vote: Mr Andropov waits impassively as Politburo members elect him President. With him (left to right, front to rear) are Dimitri Ustinov, Nikolai Tikhonov, Victor Grishin, Dinmukhamed Kanayev, Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Boris Ponomarev and Geidar Aliyev.

## Acclaim for Andropov amid the gloom

From Richard Owen, Moscow

It was not a joyous occasion, nor did Mr Yuri Andropov look particularly pleased at being elected President.

There was a faint echo of the excitement which briefly gripped the normally moribund Supreme Soviet last November, at a time when it appeared likely that Mr Andropov was going to become head of state immediately after being appointed party leader. But only an echo.

Mr Konstantin Chernenko, his ruddy face topped by a shock of white hair, walked with an air of self-assurance to the podium and declared, without any great enthusiasm, that Mr Andropov had been unanimously nominated Chairman of the Presidium (State President).

He said Mr Andropov was an outstanding leader of the Leninist type. Mr Andropov sat in his seat on the platform behind, expressionless.

Behind him, a statue of Lenin looked down from its niche, equally expressionless.

Mr Chernenko went back to his seat, four places along from Mr Andropov in the front row, and stood for a moment during the applause, finally easing himself down.

Along the row, Mr Andropov permitted himself a slight smile and inclined his head to exchange a word or two with Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister.

Earlier, Mr Andropov had walked unaided but unsteadily on to the platform from the wings, holding the backs of chairs as he skirted his way round to the front row.

He rose in his seat and spoke into microphones on the desk in front of him, his voice sounding curiously thin and distant. He sat down to general acclaim.

Across the aisle, candidate Politburo members who had not been promoted this week at the Central Committee Plenum sat looking glum. Mr Piotr Demichev, the Minister of Culture, stared into space, perhaps contemplating the ideological tightening-up demanded of him by Mr Chernenko and Mr Andropov.

Mr Vladimir Dolgikh, apparently destined to be the eternally up-and-coming Industrial Organizer, chatted to Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, the thickest Russian Federation Premier.

In front of them, the presidency finally settled, Mr Andrei Gromyko attacked the United States and accused the West of trying to subvert Poland. Once himself a candidate for President, Mr Gromyko appeared happier embodying Soviet foreign policy, as he has done for 26 years.

## Moscow intellectuals fear turn of the screw

From Our Own Correspondent

Moscow intellectuals say their fears of an ideological tightening-up have been realized after headline speeches this week by Soviet leaders.

At the two-day session of the Central Committee in Moscow, both Mr Yuri Andropov and Mr Konstantin Chernenko attacked ideological shortcomings in the arts, sciences and the media, and said more stringent controls would be imposed.

"A cold wind is blowing through our intellectual life," one writer commented, "and the best thing to do is keep our heads down for a while".

Soviet officials have been waiting since last November for definitive guidance from the Andropov leadership on cultural matters. Now that it has

been given, in the first full plenum on ideology for some 20 years, a number of unorthodox books, films and plays which have been awaiting the censors' approval are unlikely to see the light of day for the time being.

Both Mr Andropov, who made the closing speech, and Mr Chernenko, who opened the session, emphasized that the Soviet Union would win the East-West ideological struggle "by force of argument".

Echoing the moderate line taken by Mr Chernenko, Mr Andropov said that socialism would "prove its advantages in peaceful competition with capitalism".

Both men also warned, however, that the West was becoming increasingly aggressive, and that Russia would

respond by stepping up its armed might and intensifying ideological warfare.

Mr Chernenko, in particular, called for a Soviet propaganda offensive to counteract President Reagan's "crusade against communism".

"There can be no respite in the ideological struggle," he remarked. He criticized platitudes, lack of ideas and artistic futility in books, plays and films, and said film-makers seemed to prefer unhappy destinies and whining characters to noble ideals and ideological conviction.

He called on the press to conduct propaganda more effectively and respond to events more swiftly. Mr Chernenko also deplored "negative phenomena" among the young

and said some of them wanted to show off not their knowledge and diligence but expensive things bought with their parents' money.

He attacked writing which idealized God-seeking and the patriarchal way of life. A reference to novels and films which portray the eternal values of the Russian countryside rather than Marxism-Leninism.

The one consolation for more independent-minded intellectuals is that the ideological crackdown - like Mr Andropov's earlier drive for work discipline - might peter out after several months, and that cultural officials will become less vigilant after an initial display of zeal.

Leading article, page 11

## Starvation threat to 65 nations

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

More than half of the world's developing nations will be unable to feed their people by the end of this century, according to a United Nations survey, published today.

As many as 31 of the 51 countries in Africa are likely to be in trouble, while in South-West Asia, where the problem is most intense, only one out of 16 states will manage on its own.

Data about soils and climate in 17 lands was fed into a complex computer programme to produce the "grim conclusion", according to the UN Fund for Population Activities which sponsored the survey in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

About 65 Third World countries will be unable to produce enough food if their agriculture remains at the level of "peasant farming". But the position of 19 of them would remain critical even if they switched to high-intensity methods with modern fertilizers, pesticides and machinery.

The fund points out in its 1983 report that the world already produces enough food to feed its total population. But the food is not where the people are, which is why there is a butter mountain in Europe, a grain surplus in the United States - and famine in Africa.

Africa, it says, can sustain a total of 1,250 million people by subsistence farming but it is expected to reach a population peak of 2,000 million before levelling out. Yet one country, with help, might be able to feed itself many times over while those in the next-door state starve.

Even in South America, where no country is incapable of feeding itself, people go hungry because of poor distribution. Large areas of the Andes are already over-populated.

These assessments are also based on an assumption that the world's population will total about 6,500 million by the year 2000, compared with 4,500 million now.

As the global population is not expected to stop growing until it reaches 10,200 million around the year 2095, "the implications for food supply can be imagined".

Moreover, it will stop growing only if the size of the average Third World family continues to fall from five children now to the two children born to most women in the industrialized countries. One target is to bring down the rate of infant mortality, since many women in the Third World have more children than they need in the expectation that some will not survive.

Mortality rates in the developing nations have fallen from 164 in every 1,000 live births in 1950 to 90, according to Mr Rafael Salas, the fund's director.

But in some parts of the world the figure is still as high as 150. There is little hope of reducing this to 120 by 1985, which was the target established for 1984 by the International Conference on Population.

## Kohl hoping to keep row in the family

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in reply to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's prediction of a "frigid battle" at the Stuttgart summit meeting that partners usually quarrelled about money, but he hoped that this would remain a quarrel within the family.

Dr Kohl said that no one in Europe was only a paymaster and no one was a recipient of charity. He told the mass-circulation *Bild Zeitung* that a return to nationalist divisions was unthinkable.

The British Prime Minister's remarks in the *Daily Express* have been given wide publicity here, and the German press has made much of the coming conflict it believes the British position will provoke in Stuttgart.

Bonn is probably closer to the British standpoint than most other members of the Community, but Dr Kohl is in the unenviable position of being the

host who has to preside over what is likely to be the roughest summit meeting of the Community for years.

● Minister under fire: A chorus of protest mounted yesterday over assertions by a Christian Democratic Minister that pacifism in the 1930s made possible the mass extermination of Jews at the Auschwitz concentration camp, *Reuter* reports.

Herr Heimer Geissler, the Youth, Health and Family Minister and general secretary of Dr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, made the remark in a parliamentary debate on Wednesday.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of the Social Democratic opposition, said in an open letter to Dr Kohl yesterday that the statement was false and intolerable and the SPD would demand Herr Geissler's removal unless he retracted.

## Europe acts to save Ireland's vanishing bogs

By Patricia Clough

While helping Ireland to extract peat on a large scale, the European Community is seeking to help save its last intact bogs before it is too late.

The mission is urgent: the European Parliament was warned that if action was not taken soon the unique ecosystems which have developed over thousands of years in the Irish bogs will vanish in five years.

The Parliament has asked the Commission in Brussels to help with funds, to buy up surviving bogs. The move, steered by concerned Dutch and German MEPs, must come as a surprise to many Irishmen who have traditionally considered bogs as little more than a source of peat for cheap fuel.

But in the report to the Parliament Herr Meinhoff Mertens, a German, said that Ireland was the only country where bogs, once common over north-west Europe, survive in various forms. Basically they are spongy, waterlogged ground with little or no drainage where vegetation, mostly mosses, accumulates indefinitely, forming a layer of peat which in some types of bog is about 50 feet deep.

He said that certain rare bog plants, unique in Ireland, were seriously at risk. Mr Gerald Doyle, a biologist at University College, Dublin, said that the threatened species included *Sphagnum imbricatum*, a rare moss, bog rosemary, black bog rush and *Cacitum Oxycoctus*, a type of cranberry.

White-fronted geese would be deprived of an important resting-place and occasional wintering place on their migrations between Canada and Europe. The bogs are also a valuable habitat for snipe and grouse.

Not that Ireland is exactly running out of bogs: they cover roughly 2,900,000 acres, or about 17 per cent of total land area. But only about 5 per cent have survived in their rural state. Peat is being extracted at a rate of about 960 acres a year, enough to exhaust commercial supplies in 30 years.

Often the bogs are damaged



Stacking peat, Ireland's only source of domestic fuel

by agricultural drainage, the use of phosphate fertilizers and reforestation near by.

The environment ministers were meeting yesterday approve an environment fund to help Europe's ecologically more endangered areas. But with only £300,000 available the bogs will have to compete with monk seals, brown bears and other deserving causes.

The Parliament wants the Commission to buy up certain bogs for protection.



Ireland's peat areas



Under threat: the migratory white-fronted goose, above, and the rare bog rosemary.



## Bonn cuts costs - and inequality

From Michael Binyon  
Bonn

How does a government, committed to saving money, raise pensions without increasing contributions and do so in the name of social justice and equality?

Ministers here have just come up with an ingenious answer: abolish sex discrimination among the old, or more bluntly put, make women work another three years before they get their money.

From 1985, according to plans revealed by Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Minister of Economics, and Herr Norbert Blum, Minister of Labour, the pensionable age for women will be raised from 60 to 63.

Herr Blum insisted this was not a move against women. But it had the clear advantage of saving DM1,400m (£350m) in the years to 1987 and making pensions less costly as the German population ages.

Women have responded with a decided lack of feminist commitment to this move towards equality. The spokesman for women's affairs in the German Trade Union Council called the plan adventurous, and said women should retire at 60 because on the whole by that age the double burden of work and housework meant they were "physically and psychologically finished".

The series of decisions by the administrative tribunals constitute a political racket the like of which has not been seen for half a century". *L'Humanite* said in a leading article yesterday. M Jack Ralite, one of the four Communist Ministers

## French ballot scandal angers left and right

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The annulment of municipal elections in more than 20 French towns, including 16 held by the Communists, due to alleged fraud led yesterday to angry demonstrations by both the right and the left, each accusing the other of political chicanery.

"Assault on universal suffrage" was the outraged headline in yesterday's *L'Humanite*, the Communist Party daily.

While the right-wing *Le Figaro* announced delightedly "Electoral fraud: Communist party caught red-handed".

*Le Figaro* made no mention of the four opposition towns where elections have also been declared null and void, but it is true that the Communists have been pinpointed as the culprits in the great majority of decisions by administrative tribunals where serious fraud, rather than minor electoral irregularities, have been established.

The Communists have long been suspected of ballot-rigging, but never before had it been proved on such a scale. They evidently feel now that their best form of defence is offence.

"The series of decisions by the administrative tribunals constitute a political racket the like of which has not been seen for half a century". *L'Humanite* said in a leading article yesterday. M Jack Ralite, one of the four Communist Ministers

in the Government, suggested darkly that the tribunals had been subjected to political pressures.

In a stormy session in the National Assembly on Wednesday, M Andre Lajoinie, leader of the Communist group, accused the Opposition of trying once again to destabilize the Government.

The opposition, for its part, is furious that in certain cases where the elections last March have not only been declared null and void but have actually been reversed by the administrative tribunals, the existing ruling party - in every case, the Communists - is to be allowed to remain in power until the one-month period for the lodging of an appeal to the Council of State has passed.

They consider it scandalous that a party that has been found guilty of fraud should be allowed to continue to lead the council. They are demanding that the Government intervene to hand over power immediately.

In other cases, the industrial tribunals have ruled that the council should be suspended, and that a "special delegation" nominated by the Government should take over the council's affairs until such time as new elections can be held, which must be within three months of the tribunal's ruling.

## Greece tries new formula on bases

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Negotiations about the future of the American military bases in Greece seem to be back to square one, or almost there, after a last-minute hitch on Tuesday prevented an agreement.

A Greek Government spokesman said yesterday that a "comprehensive Greek proposal" for an agreement was delivered to the Americans when the negotiators met last night.

The same spokesman, announcing "important differences in matters of substance" 24 hours earlier, explained that, while there had been an agreement on separate issues concerning the bases, the final package did not fully satisfy the Greek Government.

According to diplomatic sources "important differences in matters of substance" can only mean disagreement over the two key issues of the problem - the duration of the bases agreement and the *quid pro quo* for Greece.

Qualified sources disclosed that the agreed formula was for a five-year agreement renewable by written notice three months before expiry or at one year's notice after that.

The *quid pro quo* included not only £550m (£287m) in military loans for next year, but also a provision that debt repayments should be made in Greek products, plus a promise to help to develop Greek defence industries.

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## THE ARTS

Television  
Hardly a laughing matter

Red Monarch (Channel 4) was described in advance as a "black comedy" which, as a general rule, means that it is not going to be very funny. Certainly the theme, the rule of Josef Stalin, was not propitious: the comic possibilities of a brutal tyrant can generally be counted on the fingers of an amputee. Perhaps Colin Blakeley, who played the central role, was given an Irish accent in the faint hope that an audience would laugh automatically; no such luck.

The idea was clearly to reduce Soviet politics to the level of caricature: a Politburo session is called to discuss disappointing basketball results, Stalin and Mao misunderstand each other in an elaborate manner, and so on. But there is very little point in creating a comic-strip atmosphere if the subject is not particularly comic in the first place.

What *Red Monarch* did was to emphasize the more outrageous or incredible aspects of Kremlin life - and the combination of fear and hypocrisy did have its incredible aspects - but the problem is that, when you render characters comic, you also render them harmless and in certain respects appealing. Even Beria (played gleefully here by David Suchet) had his charms, giving fresh hope to rapists and murderers everywhere.

Colin Blakeley did not look or sound like Stalin, but that hardly mattered under the circumstances. Here was a portrait of a hard-headed peasant whose devotion to his own self-advancement was the juggernaut in front of which his colleagues laid down and died. Mr Blakeley did his best to invest the part with a certain authority and he almost succeeded, but he was in the end unable to work against the tide of Jack Gold's direction. When Mr Gold is handling domestic themes, his skittishness and sardonic fantasies are plausible and even appropriate; but they cannot properly be used in alien territory of this kind.

It was, in fact, difficult to discover exactly what was being attempted in the film. The combination of Jack Gold as director and David Puttnam as executive producer sounds unbeatable, and the private life of Josef Stalin must have seemed a good idea at the time, but in practice it proved impossible for those involved to find the right tone.

I suspect that the plan was to create a kind of television Brecht - to conflate seriousness and farce, and place them within the context of a broad historical spectacle. But there was neither depth to the comedy nor intensity in the drama, and what we got instead was a kind of "Stalin Goes Bananas" with the occasional note of "tragedy" just to prove that everyone's heart was in the right place.

Peter Ackroyd

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Cinema  
Universal appeal of a family truth

**Father and Son (PG)**  
ICA Cinema

**The Year of Living Dangerously (PG)**  
Empire 2

**Pauline on the Beach (15)**  
Academy 2

**Personal Best (18)**  
Warner West End

**House of the Long Shadows (15)**  
Classic Haymarket

**The Cultural Impotence of Stupid Boys**  
ICA Cinematheque

*Father and Son* is a more than remarkable first feature film - even allowing that its director has previously had extensive experience in television - and at once establishes Allen Fong among the first rank of international film-makers. It was made in his native Hong Kong, but as an intimate, low-key, realist film, goes directly counter to all the melodramatic and escapist traditions of Hong Kong cinema. Fong is the latest film artist to show - as Renoir, Ray and Ozu have shown in their time - that it is often in the most localized and personal stories that universal themes and universal appeal are found.

The concerns of his film are familiar to everyone, everywhere: the problems of being a parent and the problems of being a child; the fact that love does not necessarily imply understanding; a father's difficulty in comprehending his son's aspirations

and the son's inability to communicate them. The film is clearly close to autobiography. Born in Hong Kong in 1947, Allen Fong abandoned his college education there to study cinema in the United States, majoring at the University of Southern California. On his return he worked for television until 1979 when he began *Father and Son*, with determination: "To say what I wanted to say most in my first film. Most young directors here believe you should start by compromising - you go for the money, the easy commercial success first, then make the movie you've always wanted to. But that time may never come."

The central action of *Father and Son* begins around 1960. The Law family, like vast numbers of other people in Hong Kong, are crowded in a squatter community. The father is a little clerk, conscientious but without qualifications, and so with no hope of promotion, doomed to humiliating penny-pinching to feed his large family.

All his hopes are pinned on his only son, but this son is a constant disappointment. He is a dreamer, his experiments and enterprises invariably lead to disaster, he is thrown out of one school after another, his ambition - inconceivable to his father - is to work in pictures. The son, as he grows from childhood to adolescence, is troubled by his father's sacrifices and disappointments, but knows he cannot change to suit him better. Only when he is departing to study in the United States - it will prove to be their last meeting - do father and son together suddenly recognize that there is a love that surpasses misunderstanding.

It is all done with great delicacy, a rich sense of comedy and an awful truth. There is a painful familiarity about such scenes as that in which the father, remorseful after punishing the child too severely, takes him to a toyshop; but the child's indecision, and the father's price-limits end with them leaving empty-handed and more irritable with each other than before. Emotions are so acutely conveyed that we never feel among people of a different race and culture. Put-upon employees and mischief-



ous little boys are the same the world over.

The most striking merit of *Father and Son* is its absolute simplicity - a quality that takes a lot of confidence in a debutant. Allen Fong is clearly a film-lover as well as a fine film-maker: he includes a touching homage to Kurosawa's *Living*, the tale of another poor clerk with a dream, and the film is full of recurrent, and endearing, tributes to Charlie Chaplin, the young hero's absolute idol.

Peter Weir is one of the rare present-day directors able to locate private dramas in large-scale historical settings. The great quality of his *Gallop* in this respect was largely overlooked in this country by critics who tried to view it as a war story; it only comes fully into focus seen as a film about Australians and the discovery of nationhood.

The setting of *The Year of Living Dangerously*, based on a novel by C. J. Koch, is Jakarta in the months leading up to the 1965 coup against Sukarno. An Australian journalist - played with attractive fools-rush-in innocence by Mel Gibson - arrives in Indonesia, and at once reacts against the boozing and cynical detachment of the rest of the English-speaking press corps. He is befriended by a dwarf

Chinese-Australian news photographer, Billy Kwan, who has an introspective bias, a network of useful contacts in the city and a well-intentioned voyeurism that leads him to keep files on everyone he meets.

Billy - whose desire to manipulate the lives of those he loves is compared both with the dictator Sukarno and the puppet-master of the Wayang shadow show - engineers an affair between Guy and an initially reluctant woman from the British embassy (Sigourney Weaver). The woman's bedroom confidences about political affairs present Guy with the journalist's inevitable dilemma of loyalty.

The romantic elements are the least successful, and lead to a particularly regrettable last scene. The shortcomings are amply compensated though by Weir's ability to combine political thriller and a very lively evocation of the time, place and danger with intelligent reflections on the personal issues of loyalty and conscience. Among the film's other merits must be mentioned Russell Boyd's fine photography - it was shot in the Philippines and Sydney - and the remarkable performance of a New York actress, Linda Hunt, as Billy Kwan.

Pauline à la plage is the third of Eric Rohmer's "Contes et Proverbes" and as charming as *La Femme de l'aviateur* and *Le Beau Mariage*, though so insubstantial that it seems likely at any moment to blow away. It is a comedy of manners and morals, set in a small seaside resort. The action moves between beach promenade and a holiday villa, and centres on three men and three girls. There are couplings, quarrels, misunderstandings, deceptions, reconciliations. At the centre of the group, the schoolgirl Pauline (Amanda Langlet) and her solemn young flame represent true love and a purity that the older ones have lost. Witty written and very prettily photographed, by Nestor Almendros, it is rather like a De Musset one-act taking it easy by the sea.

Personal Best, written, produced and directed by the screenwriter Robert Towne, runs for two hours and seven minutes but would be a lot shorter if all the athletics sequences were not done in slow motion, which is one of the most tiresome bad habits of directors without confidence in their ability to make sports scenes interesting.

The film would be no more than a very conventional Hollywood tale of love on the track but for the mild novelty that the lovers are of

The problems of being a parent and the problems of being a child: Lee Yu-Tin (left) and Shek Lai in *Father and Son*

the same sex. Of course the Hollywood sense of order requires that Mariel Hemingway goes straight in the end and leaves the bed of her pentathlon rival (Patrice Donnelly) for a rather forward water-polo player - which looks a mistake all round: Ms Donnelly, a former track star in her own right, has much the greater attraction, both as sports-person and actress.

George M. Cohan adapted *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, a *Mysterious Melodramatic Farce*, from a novel by Earl Derr Biggers of *Charlie Chan* fame, in 1913. It became a regular rep warhorse on both sides of the Atlantic, was five times turned into mediocre films between 1917 and 1947, and would now, one might think, be best left to rest in peace. Having unwisely chosen to revive it as *House of the Long Shadows*, however, Peter Walker and his writer Michael Armstrong have still less wisely messed it about with an Old Dark House family plot and an insulting twist ending.

The only real purpose of the revival is to bring together four old masters of horror - Vincent Price, Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing and John Carradine - some of whom are older than the original play: their combined ages are 280. The old folks are at least professional, which is more than can be said for the sloppy script they have to cope with or the juvenile supporting players.

The adventurous may be tempted by the programme of John Maybury's short films at the ICA Cinematheque. Maybury is a young painter (the intriguing overall title of the programme is one he has already used for an exhibition) who has spread over to Super-8 film-making, and succeeds in conveying very original and personal images to the screen. He attempts a subconscious scrambling of the audio-visual influences and the private anxieties of his generation, coming out of adolescence in the Eighties - sexuality, religion, advertising, old films, Brando, Nijinsky, pop, punk, terrorism. His films, with their electronic musical accompaniment, may madden you, but they are not ordinary or mediocre.

David Robinson

Theatre  
Exuberant sketches from tragic life

**Woza Albert!**  
Criterion

Dario Fo's recent London programme contained two medieval comic glimpses of Christ, and the fact that they both crop up in this much-acclaimed Johannesburg Market Theatre production is no accident. Barney Simon, Percy Mtwa and Mbongeni Ngema - the creators of *Woza Albert!* - are working in the ancient tradition of destitute ironist versus brutally authoritarian impostor; and whether it crops up among the starving peasants of the Po Valley, or in the brick yards of modern Soweto, it is apt to yield the best theatre in the world.

As in Fo's sketches, Christ returns to the world and runs foul of the authorities. He also re-enacts the raising of Lazarus, which comes as the climax of the show as he goes on to raise Albert Luthuli, Steve Biko and other heroes of African resistance. But, true to the nature of poverty comedy, even this political gesture is free from revenge fantasy: the tone throughout is one of exuberant good humour, marking the performers' refusal to sacrifice their own humanity no matter how cruelly dehumanized their opponent.

By the same token, Morena (not Lord) up in this influential old friend, returning not a moment too soon to get them out of trouble; and there is some resentment when he fails to wave his magic wand.



Superlative performances: Mbongeni Ngema (left), Percy Mtwa

know you don't like miracles," the imprisoned Mr Mtwa complains, "but these are hard times."

However, it seems that Morena knows what he is doing. He arrives from Jerusalem by Jumbo to rapacious greetings from the Prime Minister, but soon exchanges VIP tours of Sun City for imprisonment on Robben Island as a terrorist, before making a jail-break with Gabriel and arising on the third day after a nuclear strike that lays Table Mountain flat.

The fact that Morena appears on stage only at his nuclear resurrection, and that the details of his anti-apartheid criticism remain vague, presumably reflects the concessions by which *Woza Albert!* was allowed to play in South Africa.

That is no blemish on the work, given the superlative performances of Mr Mtwa and Mr Ngema. Not only do they act magnificently, running through roughly 100 characters, but they simultaneously enact the props and supply their own sound score: intricate, high-

precision rhythmic patterns, punctuated with reedy instruments and bird calls, all projected simply with hands and voices. When they have an actual instrument in the shape of an old tea chest, they sound like a full orchestra.

The characters who flash in and out of the fable, from white bosses wearing ping-pong ball noses to the plaintive boy selling Myblown meat, are masterly sketches from life. They raise the roof, and they break your heart.

Irving Wardle

**Any Trouble**  
The Venue

Balding, bespectacled, moon-faced and not exactly a great little mover, Clive Gregson comes from the Buddy Holly school of rock performers. In terms of more contemporary visual references, he is a cross between Elvis Costello and Elton John; and when, on Wednesday night, he dismissed all but one of the members of his band and sang a ballad to piano accompaniment, the comparison became even more vivid: "Shot With His Own Gun" met "You Song" in a workmanlike hybrid of mainstream rock styles.

Three years ago, Any Trouble seemed one of the brighter prospects: Gregson's taut, urgent three-minute songs, his enormously likable voice and the clean beat-group format of the arrangements seemed certain to win them the favour of those who vote the straight Springsteen-Knopper ticket. Despite such outstanding singles as "Girls Are Always Right" and "The Trouble With Love", the anticipated success never materialized; they were hindered, perhaps, by a burst of ill-intentioned but strategically premature publicity, arousing unjustified suspicions.

This month they are

**Rock**

reunited, grown from a quartet to a sextet, with yet another distinguished single. On its performance in the past few weeks, "Touch and Go" seems likely to go the way of its predecessors, but the band did enough at The Venue to suggest that their regeneration may yet prove effective.

The new line-up contains two keyboardists, on whom the new ensemble sound is focused - at the expense, sadly, of Gregson's own brilliant guitar work. A new drummer has been recruited, allowing Martin Hughes to concentrate on auxiliary percussion. The new arrangements are more sophisticated, perhaps in emulation of the recent work of Joe Jackson; sometimes, though, they seem merely fussy.

Richard Williams

**Milstein/Pludermacher**  
Festival Hall

Nathan Milstein is approaching his eightieth year, and on Wednesday he gave his first London recital for 16 years. The air was heavy with perfume and expectation: it may not have been a sell-out, but it was recognizably an event.

Expectation was rewarded by what seemed like two violin recitals in one - three, no doubt, for those who were able to stay for all the encores. The first consisted of Geminiani, Bach and Beethoven; and for someone who had never heard Milstein live before, here, it seemed, was a man who cared little how much his playing was cared for. Here, he appeared to say, is the music: love it, for its own sake, or leave it.

But music, of course, lives only in its advocacy and, as the violin gradually warmed into life through Geminiani's Sonata in A and the first movements of Bach's D minor Partita, the essence of Milstein's artistry became almost imperceptibly apparent. The Ciaccona, grew into a massive work on its own, its searing double-stopping acting as a percussive foil to melodic counterpoint as exquisitely varied and balanced in its voicing as if from an entire

Concert

string quartet. In its tight compression of minute, expressive detail, this was playing not to bask in, but rather which demanded tense, neck-aching concentration. Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata, too, had that same biting rigour, but tempered by an almost Gallic elegance and restraint which perhaps owed as much to the memory of its dedicatee as to the urbane brilliance of Georges Pludermacher's piano playing. He it was who had the upper hand in the slow movement's variations, moulded with an almost ascetic precision and proportion.

The second recital, after the interval, directed attention overtly to the violin itself: here virtuosity appeared unveiled in Szymanowski, Liszt, Stravinsky and Wieniawski. Szymanowski's first *Mythe*, "La Fontaine d'Arethuse", was drawn with an entirely new, silverpoint line, sound at times whistling through the air as if untouched by string or bow.

Hilary Finch

**La Dori**  
Christ Church, Spitalfields

So far revivals of mid-seventeenth-century Venetian opera have naturally favoured Monteverdi and Cavalli, but Pietro Antonio Cesti is in there as well, and catching up. On Wednesday night Musica nel Chiostro, the summer company formed by Adam Pollock for productions in a Tuscan monastery, gave the first performance for 300 years of his *La Dori*, a tale of love and intrigue set in a vague ancient Persia, though neatly and simply moved to a vague modern Arab state in Graham Vick's admirably straightforward staging.

One great virtue of that staging, and of Graeme Jenkins's direction of a small ensemble of strings and continuo, is that nothing interferes with the delectable streams of vocal lyricism that flow unburied through this score. The voice here is sovereign, in very much the way that it is in

**City of London**  
Sinfonia/Hickox  
Barbican

Half a century after his death, Gustav Holst remains the most enigmatic figure of his generation of English composers. In his chamber opera *Savitri*, written in 1908 and ingeniously juxtaposed with Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* by the City of London Sinfonia in their concert on Wednesday, all that is strongest and much that is weak about his art is to be found.

The heated passions which occasionally erupt in the work are reminiscent of *Tristan*, while at the same time its veiled sensuality places it beside *Pelléas*. Obligingly, the musical language itself periodically resembles both Wagner and Debussy.

But it is the force of Holst's own personality rather than the influence of others that dictates the work's success and failure. For, while Holst's brand of oriental spirituality hypnotically permeates *Savitri*, the naivety of such things as the hymn-like tunes which surround the central confrontation between Savitri and Death leaves one, in a state of mild shock.

Stephen Pettitt

Opera  
Delectable lyric streams

**La Dori**  
Christ Church, Spitalfields

late Monteverdi and Cavalli, and Cesti uses too many of the same stock characters and situations: the worldly wise manservant, the wench past her prime but eager for amorous adventure, the assumption of transsexual disguise, the playful toying with homosexual attractions of either kind. Above all, *La Dori* is strewn with the lamentations that baroque audiences so adored, and this plangent vein makes it an opera of charming sentiment and also distinctly proper morality, for when all the characters are so often reflecting on their wickedness, the pleasures of love begin to look overstated.

It is perhaps also their appealing frailty that makes one keep faith with these people in the face of a plot that is as wooden and full of holes as the Mary Rose. The Egyptian princess Dori, dressed as a man, is in love with the Persian prince Oronte, who is loved by Arsinoe (Dori's sister, though neither of them knows it), who is loved by the Egyptian prince Tolomeo, dressed as a woman. Much hinges on mistaken

identities, even mistaken mistaken identities, on conversations overheard, secret positions exchanged, long explanatory dialogues and letters suddenly discovered to reveal all.

No matter. The main point of the thing is to provide plentiful excuses for singing, and the Musica nel Chiostro team includes many young singers well equipped for Cesti's opulent but sensitive lines. Yvonne Lea and Arsinoe and Patricia Rozario as Tolomeo join deliciously in a rapturous duet tinged with homocriticism that is the music's highlight of the score. Brian Gordon as the counter-tenor Oronte and Anne Mason as Dori are obliged to suffer much, always with gentleness of expression and loveliness of voice. There is also a strongly declamatory uncle Artaxerxes from Henry Herford and a touching as well as comic performance from Nuala Willis as the retainer nobody wants to retain. It can all be seen again tonight.

Paul Griffiths

**City of London**  
Sinfonia/Hickox  
Barbican

Half a century after his death, Gustav Holst remains the most enigmatic figure of his generation of English composers. In his chamber opera *Savitri*, written in 1908 and ingeniously juxtaposed with Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* by the City of London Sinfonia in their concert on Wednesday, all that is strongest and much that is weak about his art is to be found.

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with threateningly dark colours and thoroughly relishing his battle of spiritual logic with Savitri.

Philip Langridge as the eventually resurrected husband Satyavan supported admirably, while the playing of the small chamber ensemble and the background contribution of the Richard Hickox Singers added both atmosphere and impetus.

In the Purcell, Miss Palmer's portrayal of Dido began in a rather staid manner, with neither the sense of style of Dame Janet Baker nor the sheer weight of personality of Victoria de los Angeles to help her through "Ah Belinda". But as she became enmeshed in her own tragedy her aloofness was strangely more acceptable, and she paced the final Lament with exquisite judgment.

Of her colleagues, Penelope Walker succeeded in making the Sorcerer a character without caricature for once; Mr Hickox, despite his extreme tempos, was more sensitive to matters of articulation than when I last heard him conduct the piece.

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## SPECTRUM

The odds and the arguments as the death penalty debate resumes at Westminster this week

## Is this a hanging Parliament?

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## A ringside seat for the hatters

With only four months to go to the vital elections for the leadership of the Labour Party, excitement is mounting to migrate, much as the House of Commons, where it is expected that all two hundred-odd Labour MPs will eventually throw their hats into the ring. In the absence of anything more concrete to talk about, speculation is now rife about the origin of this strange expression, "throwing your hat into the ring".

As with so many features of the Labour Party, explains Lord Causus, the party's archivist, "the derivation is lost in the mists of time, and perhaps best left there. Some say it comes from boxing, where a challenger would throw his hat into the boxing ring; some say it is merely to do with taking your hat off and showing that you have not got a flowing head of white hair and are therefore too old to be leader. One thing is certain: after they have thrown their hats in the ring, most contestants will then pick them up and talk through them, then later pass them round."

Lord Causus, who is 83, is still undecided whether to stand. The current is flowing strongly behind Clive Jenkins, charismatic leader of AMPSTEAD, the thinking man's union. So impressed are people by his feat of forecasting Mr Foot's resignation that a rumour is going round to the effect that he is the reincarnation of Merlin, the fiery Welsh wizard who masterminded many of King Arthur's campaigns. Was there something uncanny about his foreknowledge?

"Not at all," he claims. "A highly modern union like mine is fully switched on to information technology, and I can get my members' opinion on anything just by pressing a button. I asked the question, 'Will Mr Foot resign? Back in a flash came the answer: Certainly, boyo. I immediately informed Mr Foot of this, and though he looked surprised for a moment, he took it well and bowed to my superior knowledge.'"

Other trade unions use different methods to judge the wishes of their members, though in no case does it take longer than five minutes or indeed involve bothering the members themselves. Ken Sogal, secretary-general of BASNET, says that they look into the entrails of a freshly slaughtered scapegoat. Ray Aslef, leader of the powerful poll-workers' union MORI, prefers to give Clive Jenkins a ring and see what he thinks, then do the opposite. The 450,000 votes of TARMAC, the massive motorway maintenance workers' union, are usually cast by putting the names of all the candidates in a hat, then throwing the hat in the ring.

On one thing all the unions are agreed, though. If the Labour Party is to get away from the image of being out of touch with the rank and file, it is essential that union leaders should carefully decide among themselves what is right for the rank and file, before casting their votes in the electoral college.

The tide is flowing strongly behind Roy Jenkins, who is widely rumoured to have resigned the SDP leadership in order to have a crack at the Labour Party leadership. But there is some confusion over David Steel's comment that he may not lead the Liberals into the next election. Does this mean that he may lead Labour into the future? Do he and Roy Jenkins plan some kind of alliance in their bid for Labour power? Have they both gone stark staring mad?

When asked for his comment at AMPSTEAD headquarters, Clive Jenkins said that first he would just like to say this: three million jobs could easily be created overnight simply by the construction of an enormous building programme for the Labour Party contest, and that by chance he had three million enrolment forms for membership of AMPSTEAD lying waiting ready.

Some confusion seems to exist over the nature of the Labour Party's electoral college. Briefly, it is a large, non-voting building set in the lovely Stargill Valley in South Yorkshire, where adult students and enrol for three years in such courses as bridge-building, crack-papering, grassroots botany, fiery Welsh oratory and studies in compassion. It is hoped to add courses in economics and logic in due course. On graduation, students leave with a diploma though not, as yet, the promise of a job. The promise of 3,000,000 jobs, yes, but not of a job.

The head of the college, Mr Roy Jenkins, says he had not yet decided whether to stand for the leadership contest. Meanwhile, he had heard the story about Clive Jenkins: "Apparently someone gave Clive Jenkins a ring at AMPSTEAD headquarters and Clive automatically threw the ring into his hat. No, he did not know the origin of the expression."

## PUBLIC OPINION

Q. "Do you think the death penalty is ever justified or not?"

ALL %  
Yes, Sometimes 78  
No, never 18  
Don't know 3

Q. "I would like you to tell me whether or not you feel the death penalty would be a suitable punishment for each of the following crimes."

ALL SAYING "SUITABLE" %  
Terrorist murders 78  
Murder of a policeman 74  
Murder of a kidnap victim 73  
Murder during an armed robbery 68  
Planned murder of husband or wife 57  
Killing a burglar in one's home 13  
Murder of husband or wife in a fit of rage 12  
Accidentally killing someone during a fight 4

Source: MORI Data, June 1981.

was that the vote would probably be too close to call.

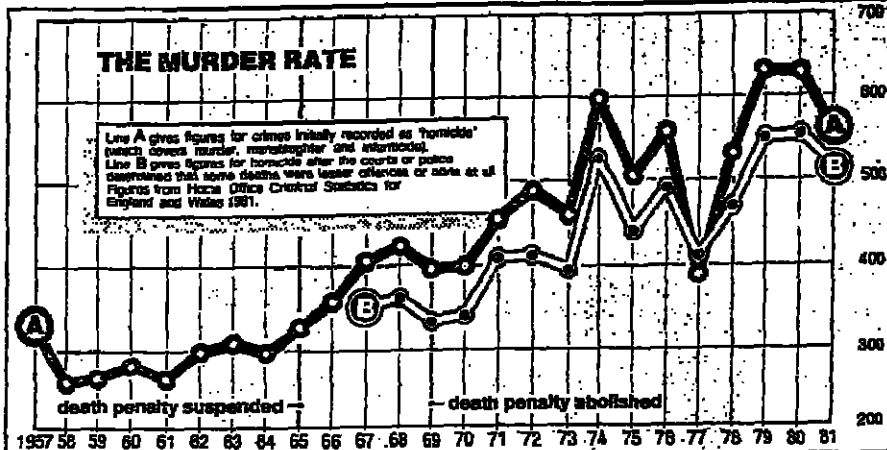
Two problems of the Westminster debate are potentially crucial: the framing of a motion or possible legislation, and the House of Lords. While the new Conservative MPs are heavily in favour of restoration, barely any two of them seem to agree on exactly what it should apply to. The detailed answers to a survey conducted during election week by *The Sunday Times* reveal a wide variation of categories of crime (and not just murder) for which they want it restored. Timothy Wood, the new MP for Stevenage, thought that it should be restored for "crimes of violence". Michael Knowles (Nottingham East) suggested it for "acts of terrorism,

murder". A number think that it should be available as a punishment for armed robbery. Stefan Terlezki (Cardiff West), who says he will be introducing a Private Member's Bill, wants to include "rape (in certain circumstances)".

The bulk of those in favour of restoration mention "terrorism". A typical selection of categories was provided by Mrs Ann Winterton (Congleton), whose questionnaire was actually answered by her husband, Nicholas Winterton, himself already an MP and in favour of capital punishment. Her list read: "Terrorism, murder of police and prison officers, murder resulting from armed robbery."

But should any motion or private Bill attempt to confine capital punishment to terrorism it is in exactly this area that it will meet the stiffest resistance in government. Few soldiers, policemen and officials who watched the hunger strikes in Northern Ireland two years ago are persuaded that the Provisional IRA, or any lesser terrorist group, will be discouraged - let alone seriously deterred - by the prospect of execution if they are caught. That year, 10 men committed slow suicide over periods ranging from 40 to 60 days. Bobby Sands, first striker to die and briefly a Member of Parliament, is now a cult figure.

Even if the House of Commons did pass legislation restoring the death penalty, there is every possibility that there would be a serious clash with the House of Lords. It remains, according to the best estimates, firmly abolitionist. But would the Lords, which in its last debate on the issue preferred not to vote rather than stir up too much controversy, risk a confrontation with the Commons? Or would the Tory viscounts come out of the backwoods



and turn the abolitionist majority among working peers, with the help of an unofficial whip, into a vote for restoration?

To the unguided eye, the arithmetic of the House of Lords can be deceptive. There are, excluding the latest batch of peers, hereditary and life, some 1,181 members, of whom 21 are Law Lords and 335 life peers. There is thus a hefty "hereditary" majority, more than two thirds, most of whom could perhaps be expected to support a Conservative line, if only with a small "C".

But the actual working population of the House is much less, put by one Lords whip at 300 to 350. Of the 1,181, 143 were in the last session also on leave of absence, a device introduced in 1958 requiring notice from those who opt for it of attendance at debates.

According to one Whip's calculation, the importance of such a debate could bring an extra 100 peers into the chamber - say 450 in all, of whom 200 would be Conservative, 100 each Labour and cross-benchers and 60 from the Liberals and the SDP. On a

free vote, the Alliance, Labour and cross-bench peers, it is calculated, would remain massive abolitionist and a big majority for restoration among the Conservatives would be far from assured.

Constitutionally, the position is that laid down for Public Bills by the Parliament Acts. As the nineteenth edition of Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* puts it: "A Bill which has been passed by the House of Commons in two successive sessions... and which having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those sessions shall, on its rejection for the second time by the House of Lords... be presented to Her Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified."

And the second Thatcher-dominated House of Commons may well be the first House since abolition with the urge to override the veto.

George Brock and David Nicholson-Lord

## For or against, here are the facts

## 2

## ARGUMENTS

The Falklands victory and nuclear deterrence will add a new dimension to the debate in Britain about capital punishment after Mrs Thatcher's election triumph. The question sometimes troubling those undecided on the issue is whether the use of the death penalty can be justified for moral ends. Mrs Thatcher's expedition to the Falklands showed that the taking of life to achieve what were then regarded as moral ends became widely acceptable, not only among the general public, but also among MPs. If such action is taken to uphold the law, why should not death be acceptable to achieve enforcement of law at home - a just retribution for the crime of murder?

The argument for using the death penalty as a deterrent has even clearer parallels in nuclear strategy. Mrs Thatcher believes in deterrence by having available nuclear weapons for deployment against the USSR which, if used, would result in widespread death, threatening huge areas of the world if the conflict then escalated. Would it not therefore be inconsistent to favour the use of deterrence abroad, with the threat of indiscriminate killing, and not favour deterrence at home when judicial killing would be discriminate?

Other people feel equally consistently, however, that taking life is immoral, whether in war abroad or in peace at home. Even those who do not go so far would argue that killing murderers reduces the moral stature of the state, and of those who act for it, to the level of the criminal. It should not be necessary to demonstrate by capital punishment that killing is wrong, particularly as a form of communal retribution. Imprisonment is enough to protect the public.

Aside from the moral arguments, does deterrence against murder work? Statistics are seized on by both sides to support their cause. Their value depends upon which ones are used. Undoubtedly, homicide has been increasing. (The term covers murder, manslaughter and infanticide, for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment). The latest government statistics show that the total number of offences initially regarded as homicide in the 10-year period 1972 to 1981 was about 50 per cent higher than the figure for 1962 to 1971. Over the same period, the number of other more serious offences of violence against the person increased by about 55 per cent - slightly more than homicide offences.

The death penalty for murder was abolished in November 1965, and abolitionists favour the use of statistics from just before and after that date. Murderers known to the police were 122 in 1963, 135 in 1964 and 135 in 1965, whereas after abolition the figures were 122 in 1966, 134 in 1967

and 148 in 1968. According to a Home Office study, the drop in 1966 and the sharp rise in 1967 were largely accounted for by murderers who subsequently committed suicide.

A later Home Office study covering 1967-71 concluded that the pattern for murder was very similar to that found in previous years. Most of the victims were closely associated with the suspects and were killed for personal or emotional reasons, especially rage, quarrels and jealousy.

The term "abnormal murder" is used to describe cases where the killer is found to be insane or has committed suicide. If those cases are left out of the calculations, the number of victims of "normal murders" were 59 in 1963, 76 in 1964 and 77 in 1965. After abolition, the figures continued to rise to 88 in 1966, 90 in 1967 and 96 in 1968. The Home Office report says that normal murders showed a marked rise in 1964 and a continuous rise since. "No reason for this is known," the report says, "as there was no change in law and practice between 1963 and 1964 that might account for it."

However, those in favour of the death penalty would argue that, regardless of fluctuations before abolition, figures since have shown a rise, whether one takes the crude homicide figures or the refined figure in the Home Office report. A rise before abolition does not mean that abolition necessarily had no effect on figures after it. But for it, they might have been lower, they claim.

One sinister development which can be seized on by the death penalty lobby is the increased number of people previously convicted of homicide who have since killed again. The numbers (in brackets) since 1971 (1) are as follows: 1972 (0), 1973 (2), 1974 (2), 1975 (2), 1976 (3), 1977 (5), 1978 (4), 1979 (5), 1980 (0) and 1981 (4). In addition one suspect in each of the years 1974, 1977 and 1978 had previously been indicted for murder and found insane. One suspect of homicide in 1981 who had also previously been convicted for it committed suicide.

Against this, abolitionists can point out that in 1981 about 3,800 people who had been convicted for homicide at some time in the preceding 30 years were alive and free to walk the streets of England and Wales.

For many, however, the clinching argument against the death penalty derives from the United States and detailed statistical research done there by Professor Walter Reckless.

He concluded that after studying many sources of information there was "no evidence that the absence or non-use of the death penalty increases murder; and no evidence that the presence or liberal use of the death penalty deters capital offences."

Peter Evans  
Home Affairs Correspondent

## CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM

## FOR

- There is a big increase in homicide.
- Terrorist killers deserve death, which will deter.
- Freed killers have killed again.

## AGAINST

- Abolition made no difference to the figures.
- Terrorists seek martyrdom - as H-Block hunger-strikers showed.
- Imprisonment is sufficient punishment.

## 3

## PROBLEMS

The lapse of two decades since the last official hanging is one of the biggest obstacles in the path of those seeking its reintroduction. Not only have attitudes changed, in some cases irreversibly, but those with personal experience of capital punishment represent a small and diminishing band in the prison service. Many staff, with reason, now view the days of the scaffold as little more than vanished history, odd and, in the view of some, distinctly primitive.

Hence one of the chief difficulties facing those attempting to frame coherent legislation would be the design of a conscience or "opt-out" clause which several categories of staff seem likely to demand. These include the 70-strong group of full-time prison chaplains and, probably, the 600 individuals who belong to the governors' branch of the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS).

Prison doctors, too, would find themselves in an ethical dilemma which has sharpened considerably since the 1950s and early 1960s. The British Medical Association, which includes perhaps half the full-time prison medical officers in its membership, has since 1965 taken an increasingly strong line on the involvement of doctors in punishment or maltreatment - although it makes clear that on the issue of capital punishment itself, it is for Parliament to decide.

## 4

## AMERICA

There are 1,161 men and 12 women sitting in the death cells of the United States, and Americans are uneasy and undecided about what should happen to them. Eleven years after the Supreme Court banned noose, chair, gun and gas, and seven years after it reinstated them, the constitutional, legal and moral arguments remain unresolved.

A two-thirds majority of Americans favour capital punishment, according to a poll this year. In the mid-1960s less than two-fifths wanted it. There is widespread concern at the level of violent crime - 18,000 murders a year - and, evidently, a resurgence of the belief that the death penalty deters.

The Supreme Court struck down capital punishment in 1972 as "cruel and unusual". Four years later the death penalty was restored and since then seven men have been put to death, one by the new, clinical method of barbiturate injection into the arm.

Gary Gilmore, of course, asked to be killed in Utah with a firing squad. At least one other man has successfully requested execution.

The normal argument about the death penalty would be familiar to British people. Many are convinced of its deterrent value. Many are not. Many are moved by instincts of vengeance, raw justice and a belief that scaffold and electric chair represent an affirmation of society's mores.

In the United States, however, the argument is complicated by contradictions and the arbitrary nature of the imposition of capital punishment in a vast and varied land. Thirteen of the 50 states have no death penalty at all. Forty-two per cent of those in condemned cells are black, and three

## Execution and the doctor's dilemma

But the BMA has aligned itself clearly against corporal punishment and has also, as a member of the World Medical Association, supported the WMA's 1975 Tokyo declaration which runs: "A doctor shall not countenance, condone or participate in the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures, whatever the offences of which the victim of such procedures is suspected, accused or guilty and whatever the victim's beliefs or motives."

One group increasingly anxious about the as yet undetermined position of the BMA on the medical ethics of capital punishment is the newly established Prison Medical Association. Formed only in April, this has some 200 members, less than half of them full-time. The ethical conflict for prison doctors, who traditionally attended the condemned man on the eve of his execution, may be intensified because most of them are thought to support capital punishment.

The dilemma for both chaplains and prison officers is perhaps among the greatest: the former attended a con-

demned prisoner usually every day up to his execution, while the officers not only, like the governor, had to do execution duty but also served on the so-called "death watch" - a round-the-clock duty in which two officers at all times accompanied the prisoner.

According to one Anglican chaplain with 15 years' experience the "overwhelming majority" of his colleagues would be against the return of capital punishment. "There will certainly be some people amongst us looking for a way of expressing the fact that they could not in conscience take part in what they might view as judicial murder," he told *The Times*.

The view is shared by the governors' branch of the SCPS, which is taking the prospect of restored capital punishment sufficiently seriously to be planning soundings among its members. Mr Sidney Powell, its secretary and a former governor himself, foresees serious difficulties if governors were forced to attend executions, as in the past, as part of their legal duties.

Those seeking restoration would also do well to consider the adverse effect on prison morale and relationships, acknowledged even by officers who supported the principle of capital punishment and who themselves took part in executions. In the short-term, tension and gloom in the build-up to an execution, particularly in protracted cases which went to appeal, almost invariably erupted into violence albeit rarely involving staff. In the long-term, the effect on staff-inmate relationships was more subtly corrosive.

David Nicholson-Lord

## Queuing for justice on death row

southern states, Florida, Texas and Georgia, have about half the country's death-row population. Many prisoners stay alive because of the permutations of appeal and legal manoeuvres worked by lawyers. "If you're adequately represented you don't get death," a justice official in Florida said recently.

Last month one of the Supreme Court justices who voted with the majority in 1976 to restore the death penalty said execution should be abolished unless courts can find faster and more efficient ways of handling appeals. He said appeal processes and abuses undermine public confidence in justice. "This malfunctioning of our

system is unfair to hundreds confined anxiously on death row."

No one can say what will happen to the condemned, clinging to threads of hope in dreary corridors leading to the death chambers. They should die, according to the protagonists of capital punishment. It has been pointed out, however, that executioners would have to kill at the rate of four a day, six days a week, for a year, to clear the backlog. That would, presumably, be unacceptable to the public. But selecting a few to die brings the argument back to the haphazard effect of capital punishment, offensive to American ideas of fairness, and undermines the theory of deterrence.

Trevor Fishlock



Newsman in Utah near the chair where Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad in 1977

## CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 84)

- ACROSS  
1 Hair (7)  
5 Foul dirt (5)  
8 Atmosphere (3)  
9 After 1945 (7)  
10 Board vehicle (5)  
11 Penalty (4)  
12 Protection (7)  
14 Legitimate possessor (8,5)  
16 Of Freemasonry (7)  
18 Intestines (4)  
21 Girl's name (5)  
22 Foolish (7)  
23 Naval drink (3)  
24 Remained upright (5)  
25 Wader (7)

- DOWN  
1 Clan (4)  
2 Very much (Music) (5)  
3 Metal mug (6,7)  
4 Rowed (5)  
5 Innocent (4,4,5)  
6 Middle Eastern country (7)  
7 Inn (8)  
13 Facial contortions (8)  
15 Nazi police (7)  
17 Ascend (5)  
19 Name (5)  
20 Religious painting (4)

## SOLUTION TO No 83

ACROSS: 1 Slaves 5 Abrupt 8 Top 9 Pierce 10 Regins 11 Meiu 12 Sanction 13 Gallon 15 Sarong 17 Low grade 20 Coax 22 Tswana 23 Emurge 24 Fox 25 Albert 26 Nestle  
DOWN: 2 Trice 3 Virtual 4 Stetson 5 Apron 6 Right 7 Pontoon 14 Arousal 15 Shebeen 16 Rickets 18 Grape 19 Abate 21 Angel  
(SOLUTION TO No 84 on Monday)  
Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



# Private health

A new relationship, or running repairs for the affluent?

George Hill reports

"We shall continue to encourage... private health insurance... this valuable supplement to state care", the triumphant Tories declare in their election manifesto - a commitment likely to attract much speculative attention at home and abroad in coming months. It gives little away as to ways and means, and Conservative leaders were at pains during the election campaign not to enlarge on the subject and give currency to alarmism about plots to dismantle the NHS.

Until the election was settled, private planners could not be sure whether the spectacular recent expansion of health provision outside the NHS was an ephemeral growth or the start of a new relationship between the state sector and the rest. The Labour Party, committed by its conference last year to an outright abolition of private medicine (a threat watered down in the manifesto) would have provided a very insecure environment for risk-takers in the next few years. Now that uncertainty is out of the way.

But that does not mean anything resembling the sudden upsurge of a few years ago is likely to resume. In five short years the number of people covered by private health insurance - almost doubled, while turnover more than trebled. Optimistic observers began to hazard hopes that numbers might be three times as high again by the mid-eighties. Those predictions look lame now, and the slowing-down of growth that occurred after 1981 had causes more profound and intractable than doubts over the coming election.

As often happens following a great expansion, a period of adjustment to new problems, and of intervention by new forces attracted by new opportunities. The state of private health care has never been so diverse or so fluid, and high hopes have to be set against very real fears.

The expansion was mainly a consequence of two once-for-all developments. The prime impetus is to the credit of the 1974 Labour Government: its attempt to extirpate private beds from the NHS forced the insurance associations to set about providing more facilities for themselves. At the same time private employers became alive to the advantages of block health insurance schemes at a discount for their employees and their dependants. These successes encouraged more directly profit-minded developments to enter the market.

The scramble to provide beds has by now more than compensated for the loss of NHS beds in some parts of the country and under the Conservatives the decline in NHS private beds has itself been reversed. Once the country's largest employers had set up discount schemes, growth in recruitment began to decline. Medical costs have risen faster than general inflation, the new clients have begun to exercise their right to make claims, and the shortage of beds threatens to turn into a problem of oversupply.

The prospect of rich pickings has attracted entrepreneurs who are prepared to compete robustly by undercutting premiums and offering "loss leaders". Sharper competition and tighter margins are bound to force insurers to grow more sophisticated in their actuarial planning and in their audit of treatments and hospitals. An instability threatens in which there may be losers as well as gainers.

Whether this more aggressive market will snatch many more customers depends more on outside influences than internal ones. In principle, of course, the prospects for expansion are immense. The privately insured sector still covers only a fourteenth of the population, while the NHS, which covers everybody, is as popular a national object of affection and not-so-affectionate grumbling as mothers-in-law.

Yet the insurance principle has remained surprisingly narrow in its ambit. It has scarcely even touched what is, in fact, the main area of private health provision outside the NHS - that of clinics and nursing homes for the chronically sick and the old.

If the service offered by the NHS became markedly less attractive, the private sector might be able to compete on a wider front. Since public spending is very likely to rise faster than national output, the possibility of more constraints, more hospital closures, more increases in prescription charges is not remote. But against the same background of faltering prosperity, the costs to the private sector of adapting to provide a more comprehensive service (medically and geographically) would be so high that it might inhibit a shift.

A significant realignment depends on outright inducements from the Government. The private sector would have to grow dramatically before its effect in permitting savings on public expenditure could be anything but marginal (even marginal savings are welcome in hard times, however). On ideological grounds the Government would certainly like to see an expanding private sector, but it is effectively committed to retaining the basic present structure of NHS financing, and is evidently well aware of the political dangers of being seen tampering with it. It has stuck to its market principles in allowing charges in the NHS private treatment to rise steadily in response to costs. It has not yet responded to appeals from the industry to widen the tax exemptions for premiums.

Up to now, the official emphasis has been on cooperation rather than rivalry. That is realistic, and in the best interests of both sides. There is much that the private sector does - and much more that it could do - through sharing staff and technology to bring benefits to NHS patients. The partnership can give the customer wider choice and draw more funds into health care than governments would dare

squeeze out in taxes. It provides too small and limited a service to constitute a serious rival to the NHS, making it possible for it to be starved of political attention and resources.

At what level it might become a threat it is hard to say. Earlier in the last Parliament, before the election began to cast its shadow, Think Tank rumblings and junior ministerial hints raised the possibility of a private sector as much as a quarter the size of the NHS. That would require not a governmental nudge, but a heave. Evidence from other countries offers little to suggest that where insurance dominates instead of tax there is any assurance that medical services will be better in overall quality, economy or even responsiveness to consumer demand. But a private sector which allowed itself to be made a threat rather than a partner to the service used by the majority would one day find itself politically very vulnerable indeed.

hundreds of local GPs, consultants and businessmen.

American and Middle Eastern money has moved in recently to compete with UK sources. Avowedly profit-centred groupings - the British Community Hospitals Group, for example, looks for a 15 per cent return on equity - share the designation "private" with scores of non-profit-making hospitals, many independent and owned by local trusts.

Dominating the field still, and probably most typical of the average insured person's experience of private hospital care, as opposed to the mythology, are the Nuffield Nursing Homes. Last year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, there were 31 hospitals with 1,076 beds, about 12 per cent of the 8,700 figure for private acute beds outside NHS hospitals usually cited by the trade associations. Significantly, the trust has recently devoted increased attention to improving efficiency and generating more finance internally, mainly for upgrading hospitals to keep pace with technology and provide the twin operating theatres now regarded as well-nigh standard in new buildings.

## Big money, big business and more patients

Anyone requiring proof that private enterprise is alive and well - warts and all - need look no further than the burgeoning provision of hospital beds for the paying patients. To opponents of private medicine, developments over the past three or four years will have furnished an unedifying spectacle of speculative interests lured on by false reports of a booming industry rushing to make a quick killing. More sympathetic spirits will see a rapid and efficient response to a clearly identified need. Neutral will probably look to the next two or three years with even greater interest, as a fascinating study of the competitive principle in action.

Although few would care to put a precise figure on the optimum level of private hospital provision in Britain, few would equally deny that in many areas it is approaching, if it has not already reached, saturation point. The reasons are clear: the fall-out in the Middle Eastern market, the flattening of insurances demand, the continuing surge in medical inflation - two or three times the rise in retail prices - and the temptation of too much new money by over-optimistic forecasts. The results, though less clear, are nevertheless discernible, and point unmistakably to a shake-out.

How many casualties this causes is debatable: what seems certain is that diversity may suffer but efficiency - the delivery of a more predictable health care "product" backed by more money and constantly improving technology - will grow. But casualties are likely to be more than matched by vastly increased experimentation in new types of private hospital care, much of it aimed at cost-cutting. Signs are plentiful of this starting to happen.

Probably as never before, diversity characterizes the private provision of acute medical and surgical beds - what most people mean when they talk about private hospitals. Small, old-fashioned institutions set up by religious orders for the war wounded but now taking fee-paying patients are private hospitals: so are self-proclaimed centres of medical excellence like the American Humana Hospital Wellington, in central London, complete with brain and body-scanners and with room charges of up to £350 daily. Pension funds and City trusts own shares in hospitals; so do, or will, companies like British Caledonian and Grand Metropolitan Hotels; so too, do

between £5m and £6m, has two major operating theatres and full facilities for X-ray, pathology, physiotherapy, as well as a pharmacy and out-patient consulting rooms. They are built on sites with scope for further expansion and usually have between 50 and 60 beds. Sixty beds, according to Mr Michael Smith, executive director of BUPA Hospitals, is about right: anything less than 40 is unlikely to be viable. The older Nuffield hospitals, by contrast, average out at 36 beds.

Mr Smith reckons that the BUPA hospitals, which include some interesting joint ventures with both local and national business interests, are more keenly priced and tightly run than much of the American competition, and hence better placed to weather the relatively leaner times in prospect. The group prides itself on its market analyses, its capacity to identify the potential of an area to support private hospital beds, and on its policy of staying out of areas already adequately stocked.

In Edinburgh, however, it is effectively pushing out - albeit by agreement - St Raphael's, a hospital run by a Roman Catholic order which has for years provided the bulk of the city's private surgical beds, but which is now, reluctantly, to close them down. As well as BUPA's proposed Murrayfield Hospital, the city was also faced with a 76-bed proposal from the Hospital Corporation of America - eventually withdrawn by HCA. It thus nearly became one of those areas to have passed saturation point.

Central London is commonly thought to be the chief of these, so too, according to BUPA, are areas like Edgbaston and Solihull in Birmingham where hospitals run by Nuffield, HCA and American Medical International sit in uncomfortably close proximity.

St Raphael's provides a good example of the challenge facing the diminishing group of charities and religious foundations still providing acute care. Set up by the 106-year-old Little Company of Mary after the First World War, it has catered mainly for insured patients in its 30 surgical beds. But it has been confronted with rapid advances in technology and the pace of nursing which were proving too much for the sisters who ran it.

Sister Ignatius, the order's Provincial Superior, says the arrival of a BUPA hospital

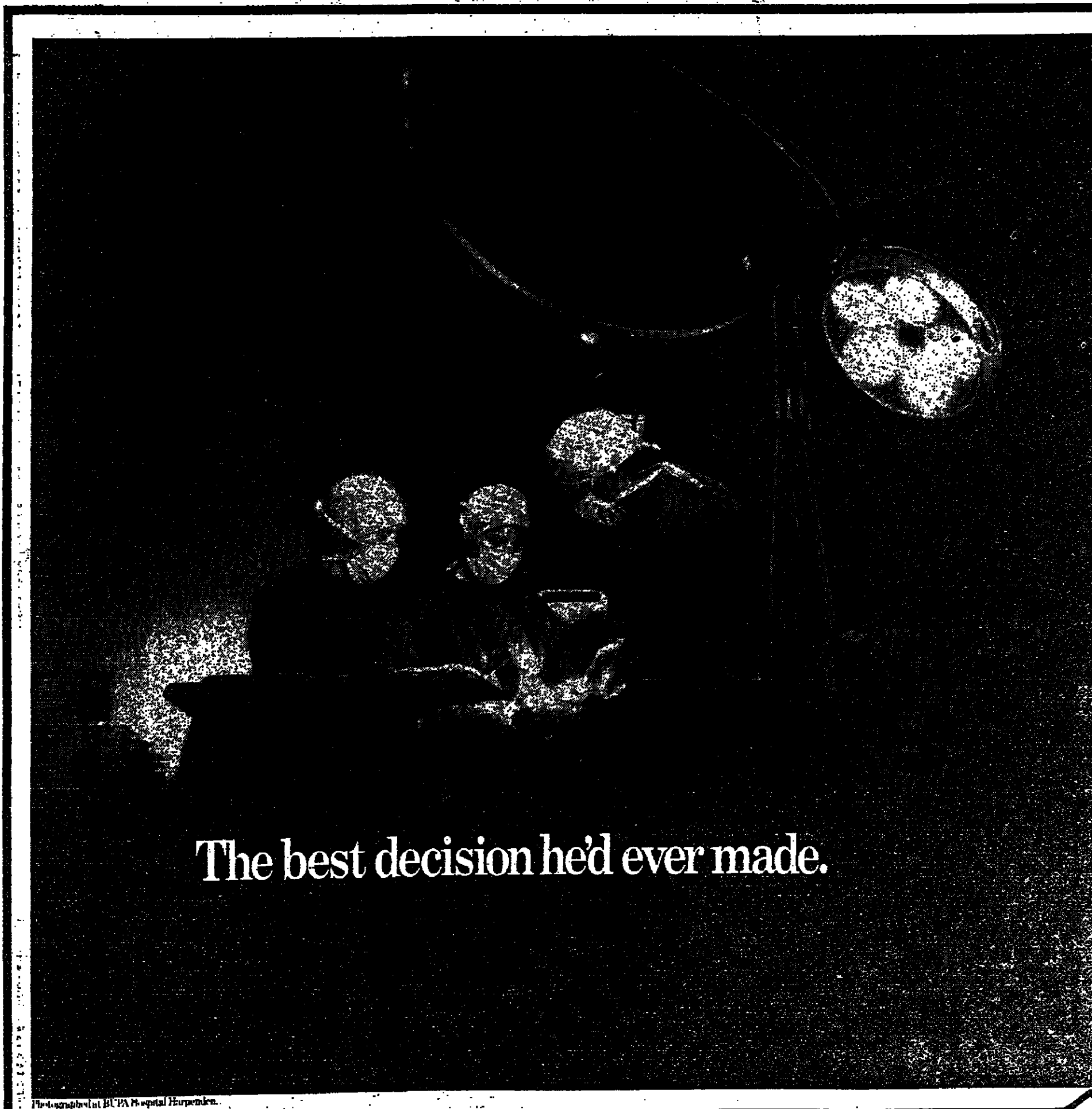
Continued on page 4

### Good quality, reasonably priced private care

Last year it employed management consultants, increased its surplus from £1.46m to £2.59m and registered modest improvements in figures for length-of-stay and bed-occupancy rates, leading to a 13 per cent increase in the number of patients treated.

But the upgrading task facing the trust, when private health is suddenly big business and big money, is perhaps best illustrated by the policies adopted by BUPA Hospitals - like the trust, started by BUPA to provide good quality, reasonably priced private care mainly for the insured patient.

BUPA Hospitals was launched in 1977 in the face of the Labour Government's threat to private beds in the NHS and with the aim of ensuring private hospital provision for BUPA subscribers. It opened its first hospital at Manchester in April 1981, now runs or manages six, and has four more planned for opening over the next year. Each costs



The best decision he'd ever made.

"Now everyone's got their nose to the grindstone, what we need is a health care company to look after them," said the chairman.

His words didn't fall on deaf ears. I searched for a health care company that was aiming to look after us rather than make a profit out of us.

I found a company that wasn't going to give away any of our money to shareholders.

They hadn't any. Instead, they invest any surplus. Last year the return on this investment helped them open three more medical centres pioneering preventive medicine, and add three more nursing agencies to those they had already.

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# Can you afford to be distracted?

Paradoxically, if you live in London or another big city, there are arguments for having maximum cover such as offered by PPP's Family Masterplan 1 or no cover at all. Only maximum cover will provide sufficient to ensure that you are not substantially out of pocket

## Health insurance: getting what you pay for



which comes into operation if the NHS waiting list involves a delay of more than six weeks. The advantage is that you don't have to wait six weeks for the

If you are buying and paying premiums yourself, compare one scheme with another. Of the big three, Western Provident Association is generally the cheaper. But as our table shows, it is possible to get an even better deal from a smaller company. Other companies whose premiums and benefits should be checked include Exeter Hospital Aid, Crusader, Patients' (London), and (though this has had fairly low maximum benefits), Provincial Hospital Services Association (again fairly low maximum cover) and Allied Medical Assurance. And before you sign and pay the premium, check the exclusions.

## Lorna Bourke

ANNUAL PREMIUM*	PPP	Bupa	WPA	BCWA
	<b>£456.72</b>	<b>£548.91</b>	<b>£385.05</b>	<b>£348.20</b>
<b>1 Maximum Benefits per annum</b>	<b>£35,000</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>	<b>none</b>
<b>2 Hospital Accommodation</b>	Full refund up to NHS post-grad teaching hospital	Full refund up to NHS post-grad teaching hospital	Full refund up to NHS post-grad teaching hospital	Full refund up to NHS post-grad teaching hospital
<b>3 Home Nursing</b>				
Full time	Full refund	Full refund	Full refund	Full refund
Following in patient treatment	Full refund	£500	Full refund	Up to 13 weeks
<b>4 Surgeon &amp; Anaesthetists' Fees</b>				
Major +	-	£575	£575	-
Major	£450	£430	£440	£600
Intermediate	£300	£285	£285	£300
Minor	£150	£145	£145	£150
Complex Major	£1,050	£855 to £1,720	£1,200	£1,200
<b>5 Physician's Services</b>				
In patient	£18 p d	£100 p w	£119 p w	£140 p w
+ intensive care	£36 p d	£22 p d	£400 p a	£3,640 p a
<b>6 Consultant Physiotherapy</b>				
In patient	Full refund	£330 p a	£330 p a	£350 p a
Out patient	£250	£330 p a	£330 p a	£350 p a
<b>7 Operating and Theatre Fees</b>	Full refund	Full refund in NHT and Bupa hospitals	Full refund	Full refund
<b>8 Cash Benefit while NHS patient</b>	£20 p d	£20 p d	£105 p w	£119 p w

\* Including discounts for annual payment and direct debit.

# How private medicine stopped being just a perk

Like the company car, however, company-paid medical cover is still an excellent deal. But there have been examples of free cover being offered to the workforce as part of a pay deal. A few years ago, for instance, the Electrical Contractors' Asso-

The size of the discount depends on a number of other factors. The numbers involved - organizations like British Rail and the Civil Service (em-

But there is some worry that having ensnared a new breed of subscriber, the private health insurers may have some diffi-

In addition to the waiting list cases there were apparently a great number of frivolous claims. "Some people were expecting to get their toenails cut on their insurance", as one insurer put it. This year's subscriptions seem to be going up by about 12 per cent - by a larger amount than the average pay packet.

After Bupa's experience the insurers are looking at their claims experience more carefully. Group schemes are adjusted on an individual basis so most insurers are keen to impress on their new breed of subscribers the fact that a cavalier use of the insurance cover will mean increased costs for their particular scheme.

## Margaret Drummond

Circumcision	MINOR (up to £145)
Cauterization of Cervix	MINOR (up to £145)
Tonillectomy	INTER (up to £285)
Ligation of or stripping of varicose veins	INTER (up to £285)
Inguinal Hernia (simple)	INTER (up to £285)
Hysterectomy (abdominal, vaginal)	MAJOR (up to £430)
Appendectomy	MAJOR (up to £430)
Fracture/dislocation of spine	MAJOR PLUS (up to £575)
Hip Replacement	MAJOR PLUS (up to £575)
Heart by-pass operations	COMPLEX MAJOR (£855-£1,750)
Nerve root decompression (cervical)	COMPLEX MAJOR (£855-£1,750)
Mastectomy (partial)	INTER (up to £145)
(radical)	MAJOR (up to £430)
(total)	MAJOR (up to £430)
Bone Tumour (radical)	MAJOR (up to £430)
Malignant melanoma	MAJOR (up to £430)
Cancer of internal organs, fall into the major/complex category GU/PA scales	

هكذا من الامل



## Peter Hopkirk undergoes a private health check

# Everything you ever wanted to know about yourself

Twenty years ago I approached an eminent Harley Street doctor for a general medical check-up and was politely shown the door. Although young and healthy, I was feeling slightly the worse for wear, having twice that year been the unwilling guest of the secret police, first in Havana and shortly afterwards in Beirut.

Without so much as taking my pulse, the great man told me not to waste his time - or my money. "I can assure you, my boy," he said firmly, that there is absolutely nothing wrong with you."

Of course, he was perfectly right. But it was not an untypical reaction to what many British doctors then viewed as an unhealthy transatlantic pre-occupation with one's health.

Today, however, general health checks, using a whole battery of modern diagnostic techniques, have become respectable. The value of an "early warning" system, despite some die-hard resistance still, is recognized by many. If not most, doctors on this side of the Atlantic.

The vast majority of those "screened" today are sent by their employers, or come via private insurance schemes which offer the facility to their members at concessionary rates. A growing number of companies, including giants like IBM, avail themselves of the services of the several clinics and private hospitals offering general health screening facilities (which, because of the cost, the National Health Service does not).

Indeed, in industry annual check-ups are coming to be regarded by executives singled out for a free health screening as not merely a perk, but a status symbol. Costing around £130 a time (a little more for women, who have additional tests for undetected ailments) it is a clue to the value an employer places on one's health.

An increasing number of individuals, too, are availing themselves of the service as they

learn of its existence. For those living abroad, in tropical or high-risk health areas, additional tests can be included in the screening process.

To find out what progress had been made since my own abortive attempt to obtain a check-up in 1962, I visited the new AMI-run Princess Margaret Hospital at Windsor, which operates a health-screening clinic under Dr Graham Taylor, former Director of Medical Services for British Airways.

A firm believer in preventive medicine, Dr Taylor's early first-hand experience was gained with wartime air-crews, and later from the more exacting requirements of modern airline pilots.

Before any of the battery of scientific tests - on the patient's blood, urine, heart, lungs, etc. - are carried out, he is given an hour-long physical examination and interview by Dr Taylor. Female patients are seen by a woman doctor specializing in preventive medicine, who also carries out gynaecological and other tests.

During his initial session with the patient, Dr Taylor inquires about his work, life-style, family, his eating, drinking and smoking habits, whether he is happy, worried, under any kind of stress, and other relevant details of his personal life. He also needs to know the patient's medical history. Any one of these details, which are carefully (and confidentially) recorded, may prove relevant later on. For the doctor now has a fairly complete picture of the individual as a whole.

Now follows an extremely thorough physical examination of all those areas of the body likely to harbour hitherto undiagnosed trouble. The patient is encouraged to draw the doctor's attention to any aches and pains, or any other worries he may not have bothered to go to see his busy GP about.

Finally there are the clinical tests. These include blood and urine samples (the patient must not eat or drink anything



Peter Hopkirk on the examining table

besides water overnight), a chest X-ray and an electro-cardiograph check for potential heart trouble. The laboratory examination of blood and urine samples, for example, may give early warning of kidney, liver or heart ailments, or of latent diabetes.

Dr Taylor estimates that some ten per cent of those screened will need referring to a consultant for treatment of some kind. Often this will be something quite minor, but the important thing is to catch it early, whatever it is. The tests are particularly designed to detect diseases of the crucial cardio-vascular group, which kill some six out of ten people eventually, and also stress-induced ailments like ulcers and even asthma.

A copy of the screening report is normally sent to the patient's GP, who should already know that he has gone for a screening, pointing out anything that is amiss. Where an employer is paying, a copy of the report may also be sent to the company doctor, but only with the patient's prior agreement.

Dr Taylor believes that everyone over the age of 50, preferably younger, should be screened annually. "We can't promise to pick up everything," he told me, "but we can find out a lot."

The three-year-old Princess Margaret Hospital, conveniently placed for those flying into Heathrow, is one of several centres in Britain offering these facilities. In London there are

three principal clinics, including one run by BUPA and another by the Institute of Directors, as well as a number of smaller ones. They provide very roughly the same screening programme, though the emphasis may vary according to the predilections of their medical advisers.

Screening has one important psychological side-effect (at least for the vast majority who are not referred for medical treatment). That is the relief of discovering that one has a clean bill of health, even if one is given a gentle wiggling by Dr Taylor for drinking too much, or not taking enough exercise.

Indeed, after one flabby executive had been screened, his boss ordered him to spend two hours a week in the company gym - or face being sacked.

## More beds every year

There has been an explosion of private hospital building in Britain over the past few years. Since 1976, 53 private hospitals have been built. Why has this happened, what has it achieved and for whose needs is it catering?

One private hospital pioneer, Dr Arthur Levin, previously medical adviser to companies such as Rolls-Royce and British & Commonwealth Shipping Co., saw, in 1970, the need for a private hospital in London with better facilities than then existed.

Dr Levin's philosophy was to create conditions similar to people's homes or the hotels they would stay in. Typical of facilities at the time was a private wing with one bathroom to 10 patients. In 1974 Levin opened the Wellington Hospital, St. John's Wood. In 1976 it was taken over by Humana Inc. (an American investment group which has built 89 hospitals) and is now the largest of Britain's purpose-built, multi-speciality private hospitals.

Although Dr Levin had not foreseen the oil crisis of 1973 and the subsequent influx of Arabs seeking medical treatment, the hospital has been a major currency earner. Today about 45 per cent of its patients are British, 40 per cent are Arab and the remainder are foreigners. Bed occupancy is 75 per cent. In 1975, Barbara Castle's proposal to phase out private beds in the NHS caused concern. Some consultants at Northwick Park, Harrow, an 800-bedded district general hospital associated with the Medical Research Council's clinical research centre, started looking for a site on which to build a private hospital.

American Medical International (AMI), the American hospital group which has built over 108 hospitals internationally, stepped in and built the 99-bedded Clementine Hospital, Harrow, in 21 months at a cost of £6m. (The average cost of a NHS 300-bedded district is £13-£14m.) Secondly, interest in medical insurance was increasing. In 1978 50 per cent of private patients were insured; now over 70 per cent are insured.

Today AMI have a £65m investment in British hospitals. Since 1977 they have built seven hospitals and the eighth is due to open in Glasgow before Christmas. It was the building of their 145-bedded Alexander Hospital, Manchester, in 1981 which set the private sector's fast-build pattern; the hospital was opened within 12 months of planning permission being granted. After a British quantity surveyor estimated that the

hospital would cost £12m and take 21 months to build, AMI called in an American contractor who gave a fixed term of 12 months and a fixed price which reduced the total cost to £7.5m.

The British private hospital group, BUPA, have a £27m investment. Through their subsidiaries they have built six hospitals since 1978 with an average of 56 beds and four more are being built. BUPA have achieved a similar speed of design and construction, aiming to open a hospital 20 months after outline planning permission is granted: their Cardiff hospital was built in 14 months.

In contrast NHS hospitals can take 15-20 years to build. Planning on the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, which includes a 1,458-bedded University Hospital and medical school, started in 1965, but the first 400 beds did not open until 1980 and it will take two more years to open another 900; the total cost is around £80m. Designing a large complex hospital which has to cater for all the needs of 300,000 people, is obviously more complicated than building a 100-bedded private hospital.

Mr Eric Hemming, BUPA's hospital development director, says, "the secret to fast building is to have a well-informed client who has decided his needs, a clear-cut decision-making process with a small team... with short lines of communication". By contrast, Mr Hemming remembers an NHS hospital building committee meeting to discuss a boiler house design with 20 people - nurses, physiotherapists, radiologists - all with a right to discuss and veto a subject on which most had no expertise.

Where do AMI and BUPA decide to build? AMI usually wait for a community to approach them, while BUPA do desk surveys looking at population figures and potential subscriber growth, at the average length of stage in hospital and number of beds in a given area, examining in detail with local consultants work patterns and special equipment needed. Mr Hemming says, "the demand for private surgical and acute medical beds may have reached saturation point. In 1973 there were around 9,000 private beds, half in the NHS; by 1984 there will be over 11,000".

Many of the private hospitals are not full, which may be because they have priced themselves out of the market. Around 90 per cent of these beds are surgical, 10 per cent acute medical, following the needs of the insured.

Mr Hemming says, "the elderly, chronically ill, terminally ill and handicapped are not insurable at affordable premiums". This throws the burden of Britain's medically neglected onto the NHS. Neither sector has successfully tackled the problem.

The explosion of high technology medical equipment has thrown off balance the cost of equipping a modern hospital. Mr Robert Wilkins, consultant radiologist at Northwick Park and vice-chairman of the NW Regional Scientific Committee, says, "British hospitals are not as well equipped as most American and European hospitals, but this is changing".

In private hospitals such as those run by AMI, BUPA and Humana Inc. consultant only to make out a good economic case for a piece of equipment. In contrast, the NHS hospitals work to a budget and if a decision is taken to buy say a CT (computed tomography) scanner (£450,000) for one hospital, it means there is no money for replacement of normal equipment in the area's other hospital.

The technology explosion is most pronounced in radiology, where there have been many developments: CT and digital subtraction and geography both use computers and X-rays; other developments are in ultra-sound, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and isotope imaging (nuclear medicine).

Northwick Park acquired Britain's first CT scanner eight years ago; now almost every major teaching hospital has one, most being paid for by private subscription. A committee has been set up at the hospital to look into the feasibility of the two sectors sharing equipment. This could be the beginning of real co-operation between the NHS and private sector. To an extent it already happens - the London Hospital rents a CT scanner from a private institution. Kings sends patients to private CT scanning and Northwick Park sends patients to Humana Wellington's £650,000 bi-plane cardiac catheter laboratory, which is used by 28 consultants.

In an ideal world the building of private hospitals would have been better co-ordinated to take account of geographical need, and ways should be found for the hospitals to care for more of Britain's elderly, chronically ill and handicapped. However, a healthy private sector has had a beneficial stabilising effect on top consultants who are happy to practice in the UK's mixed medical economy.

Peta Levi

WORS

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Equally important, one to suit your pocket.





## Two views of the way to keep happy and healthy

## The joy of having your own room

Being self employed I cannot afford the NHS. Long stretches of waiting for appointments, seldom seeing the same doctor twice, anxious weeks of waiting for results - these are not for me. I do not enjoy the endless trips back and forth to specialists, doctors and hospital. Not only do I not enjoy them, I cannot afford the time.

There is no doubt in my mind that private medical care is a luxury, born of necessity. Twenty years' experience has taught me this. Private health care gives me reassurance, and peace of mind. I know that I can be looked after by the best brains in the country. If you have medical problems (and some unusual ones) you need to know that you are in expert hands. At a consultation in a NHS hospital the young doctor had "my file" in front of him - it said "Aet. 60, deceased", and it was my late mother's file. When one has the one life - and that one not particularly healthy - you require faith in the people - and the system.

Money spent on my annual PPP Masterplan 1) subscription to a private health scheme is money well spent. I gladly

forgo long holidays, the latest kitchen equipment or expensive videos. I prefer to invest in privacy, personal choice, and comfort that private health care offers me.

Twenty years ago I had my first experience of private medicine. The operations were grim, the pain excruciating but it was a relief to be in a private room. There was no one to hear or see my wretched state, and being a very private person, who hates noise a dormitory existence would have made it much worse.

Since then I have had many more experiences of private and NHS treatment. Today the private sector has improved beyond recognition. Private hospitals and clinics have facilities often more modern and more advanced than many of our NHS hospitals. The new Cromwell Hospital in London has probably the most up-to-date cancer unit in the country. The Devonshire Hospital is another new one where there was no difficulty in having immediate Ultra Sound investigation while my local health authority could not give me an appointment for at least three weeks as they had no one to operate the machine.

Today there are many private health schemes. I admit a preference for PPP. One of its advantages is its membership card which can be used like a credit card. The worry over hospital bills is taken off your shoulders. You present the card and arrangements are made for direct settlement.

The benefits of medical attention fitting in with your own commitments, business or domestic is incalculable. For a business person it is vital, and I find, psychologically calming. As a private patient I have always been able to discuss my problems almost immediately. Speed in medical treatment is important. Ill health to the sufferer requires action, not a debate. The uncertainties and delays in the public sector can cause unnecessary emotional stress, and to me, private care has taken that away. No waiting for weeks for answers - good or bad.

My recent experience left little time for thought. I was in the hands of the surgeon of my choice - one of the world's great cancer experts, whose devotion to his work and the time he spends caring for his patients is remarkable. Within minutes of diagnosing possible cancer,

arrangements were made for me to enter the London Clinic next day for a major operation. The care and attention I had from the sister and nurse was touching. Never a cross word, night or day. Two nurses were assigned to look after me, make me comfortable, pulverize the pillows, wash, powder and pamper me when I most needed it. I was not a number or a statistic. I was another human being with whom they could chat as well as give me reassurance.

Some people say they would hate to be alone. I wonder whether they would say that if they were in real, agonizing pain and surrounded by the noisy bustle of a ward, snoring neighbours, and blaring TV? To me a private room is a blessing. I could feel secure in having all the things I wanted around me, books, personal pictures, cards, business files, dictating machine and all the flowers that arrived from friends and foes alike.

My personal telephone ensured that I was not cut off from the outside world. I could talk to anyone, anywhere. I could even have confidential business meetings. Visitors could come, within reason, when they wanted. Obviously all this happened when I was on the road to recovery. My surgeon, being a very understanding man, realized the more I occupied my mind with normal routines the quicker would be the recovery, and less time to brood on whether one would recover or not.

With serious operations fear can be all pervading. Like a child needing its mother for reassurance, adults also need



those closest to them at these anxious moments. Being able to have my husband with me before being wheeled off to the operating theatre and then to see him when I regained consciousness was very comforting. Others may be braver. I admit I am not. I can never forget the command from the NHS sister at Westminster Hospital that I was not allowed to see my husband until a whole day after his operation!

Hospital food is often a subject left alone. What hospital kitchens do with good food has always been a mystery. Yet there are times when special diets are required and appetizing food can help to rebuild stamina. In private clinics greater care is taken of both the meals and diets. I remember after a kidney operation in an NHS hospital being served the

very things I was forbidden. The alternative was to eat mashed potatoes! The food at the London Clinic was outstanding, well-cooked and beautifully served.

Private health care is not only for the wealthy or city tycoon. I have met fellow workers like myself who have chosen their own path to health. There are those who have said, "But the nurses look after the rich better". I am not rich, and the care and attention I received was exemplary. Nothing was too much trouble. Only the other day the sister in charge of the ward where I had my cancer operation some four months ago rushed up to me in a chain store saying "We have all been asking after you. Did the surgeon tell you? When are you coming to see us?"

I have found that as a private

patient the mystique is taken out of the medical profession. The consultants, specialists and nursing staff treat you as a person with a brain and are prepared to talk to you. I have experienced the reverse in the public sector where I was treated like a moron when I asked questions. I felt they would have liked to send me into solitary confinement for daring to query anything.

I am positive that if everyone could have the same care I have experienced then there would be many more beds available in the National Health. I recently met the dean of one of our famous medical schools, four weeks after my radical operation and while still undergoing radiotherapy. He was amazed at my looking so fit so quickly, and was certain my rapid recovery was a result of the

excellent treatment and the peace of mind I had received. He has to remain nameless as his final comment was: "If you had been with us you might still be in hospital!"

Good health is a precious asset. Those who have it seldom appreciate it. To private care has at least softened the shock of being in hospital and taken away some of the fear of the surgeon's knife. I have no had to remind people of my rights nor be the victim of a clocking off and on or of a closed department or casualty ward. To me, personally, medical care should be dedicated for all - from consultant, nurse to ancillary worker. A Florence Nightingale approach it may be - but who is wrong with that?

Alina Reagh



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## Rather painful days 'going private'

Critics of private medical care point to experience in the United States where medical fees in recent years have gone through the roof. Greedy doctors, knowing that patients are covered by an insurance will undertake unnecessary and expensive treatment in order to bump up their fees.

While I am no apologist of the National Health Service (it was dissatisfaction with the NHS that drove me into the arms of private medical care), my own experience is that the private sector in this country is not without its shortcomings. I have probably been unlucky with both the NHS and private medicine. Any admission that you are both female and a journalist instantly elicits a prescription for valium - no matter what your symptoms. I have had valium for hepatitis, valium for kidney infections (twice), valium for tonsillitis and a host of other ailments - some of which I have recovered from under by own steam without any treatment, and others which eventually landed me in hospital. Needless to say, I have never taken the valium.

November of last year was one of the latter. I was admitted to an NHS hospital suffering from acute kidney infection. I was discharged, cured of the infection, but suffering from an

excruciatingly painful hip, swollen to twice its normal size.

Complaints during my stay in hospital that something was wrong with my hip were taken seriously to the point of giving me painkillers, but no attempt was made to diagnose the trouble. "Purely muscular", was the dismissive reaction of the two doctors who gave it a cursory glance.



continued from page 1

hastened the decision to close St Raphael's surgical beds and reopen as a nursing and sheltered housing unit. The order is now to concentrate its acute facilities at its other hospital, the Convent, in Nottingham.

She added: "We are getting less in numbers and the sisters are getting older. We want to provide a service which we would like to feel is more individual but we cannot compete with firms which have limitless amounts of money to pour into its places."

A similar story can be told in south London, where the Churchill Clinic, opened in 1981, has now achieved the double-figure target for return on investment set by its private Kuwaiti backers, only two years after its opening. The initial investment was about £6m and fresh improvements are now planned.

Further proof of the increasingly sophisticated relationships that now characterize the growth areas of private hospitals can be found in the Community Hospitals Group - an organization which seeks to combine the local commitment which has behind most of the successful independent hospitals with City finance and management skills.

The first of the CHG hospitals, the Yorkshire Clinic at Bingley near Bradford opened just over a year ago after more than 70 local consultants launched feasibility studies obtained pledges from their colleagues of £300,000 - 10 per cent of the estimated project cost - and then went on a shopping trip round the City. The package put together by MIH Nightingale, the investment bankers (now Granville and Co), provided the template for four more hospitals, two of them already operating; several more are in the pipeline. In the words of Mr Frank Atkinson the clinic's chief executive the package demonstrates the benefit for local investors of "one-stop" shopping.

Private hospitals were once considered a high-risk by institutional investors BUPA

Hospitals claims some of the credit for changing this. But while the two differ on the importance of doctors' financial stake - BUPA, like the American Grace Hospital, both in central London, AMI promotes a clear-cut technological image, aims for occupancy rates some 15 per cent to 20 per cent lower than Nuffield and clearly views the "bread and butter" British hospital as under-equipped. As more private patients come to regard their insurance premiums as an instant passport to the very best in technology, the point is worth considering.

Mr Burleson remarks, with deceptive casualness, that he will be interested to see whether the BUPA and Nuffield hospitals "can survive on the reimbursement rates that BUPA is willing to put into them."

The third major American presence provides an almost total contrast. Bigger than either of its competitors worldwide and given to resounding and distinctly un-British statements about its health care "mission", HCA has in Britain adopted a profile so low as to be almost invisible. "We have come here to learn as much as to teach," says Mr Arthur Ouellette, managing director of HCA UK Ltd. "We are not here to force any of our hospitals to do anything the American way. They are all very much British institutions."

Two discrete policy decisions back up that aim - first, to cater for the insured market, and second, to stay clear of London. HCA's move into the UK market, after a long dormant presence came last year when it acquired the British company Selthart and its chain of two operating and four planned hospitals. These were well-equipped but smallish, averaging 35 beds apiece; the group is planning to upgrade them to the 60-70 bed range and is also building a notably higher-tech venture, the 100-bed Chalybeate Hospital in Southampton, due to open in September 1984.

Particularly in the luxury sector, an attitude of consolidation - rather than vigorous

Commonsense told me otherwise. The day I was discharged I made an immediate appointment at a local private clinic. I had attended on previous occasions when NHS GPs had insisted on prescribing valium for the same kidney infection.

A quick examination by the clinic's doctor produced the diagnosis of capsulitis - in layman's language, tennis elbow of the hip. A painkilling injection was administered followed by another direct into the joint to reduce the inflammation.

The doctor's advice - to rest and not walk was precisely the opposite of that given by the hospital - to keep moving and "get the muscles working again".

My next move was, however, a mistake. As I was already paying for treatment (I have no private medical insurance) and would have to return for further injections I thought I might as well have a full check-up. "How much would a thorough medical examination cost?" I innocently asked.

The doctor looked at me, muttered something about it depending on what tests I wanted done, and plucked a figure out of the air which was obviously what he thought the market would bear - £300. He



was just about spot on, I knew that this was probably double what BUPA or PPP charge for their full medicals. On the other hand, he had already treated me for the hip. "Does that include everything?" was my next question. Oh yes, I was assured.

To cut a long story short, three visits and a multitude of tests later, it became apparent that £300 was by no means the full fee. On my fourth visit I said I felt that I had had sufficient electrocardiograms, liver function tests and X-rays to reassure me that whatever I might be suffering from, it would remain undetected by medical science, until it either got worse, or I dropped dead.

"But I feel we ought to do a brain scan just to satisfy

ourselves that this is not the cause of your headache," said the doctor.

I turned down the offer knowing that my headache was most likely brought on by liveliness following too many antibiotics. "Well you at least ought to have an X-ray in case it is a nerve trapped at the base of your neck. Your hip X-ray showed some osteo-arthritis of the spine," retorted the doctor now warning to his sales pitch.

I had not the courage to tell him I knew that virtually everyone over the age of 50 suffers from osteo-arthritis of the spine, and mumbled something about not having time for X-rays.

But it was not that easy to away. Before I knew what was happening my objections about not having time were brushed aside and I found myself on more in front of the X-ray machine. Fortunately I had had all the children I want so might have otherwise been worried about the dose of rays I took in that week should have just said No.

Suffice to say that I am still here, my headaches have gone since I gave my liver a rest from antibiotics and alcohol, and although I have settled in clinic's account for £400 (£11 more than the original "quote" - I have no intention of paying their final £100 insult for X-rays - I didn't need and didn't want Heaven knows what the bill might have been had I been covered by medical insurance.

Lorna Bourke

expansion, is now discernible. This need not, however, preclude diversification into interesting new areas. Other American groups have already moved quietly into acute psychiatric care in Britain, and according to AMI's Mr Burleson, alcohol rehabilitation and drug abuse treatment are also promising fields. So, too, is day surgery, involving no overnight stay.

BUPA Hospitals, meanwhile, is examining what Mr Smith somewhat cryptically describes as "Culomptoms" that is, the economic and clinical feasibility of any hospitals of around 20

beds to fill in the remaining geographical interstices where demand for private hospital care, is as yet unrequited.

All this activity, however, will be taking place in what Mr Ouellette, of HCA, describes as an atmosphere of significantly greater cost consciousness. "The survivors," he adds, "are going to be the pros - the people who really know what they are doing in terms of running a hospital."

David Nicholson-Lord

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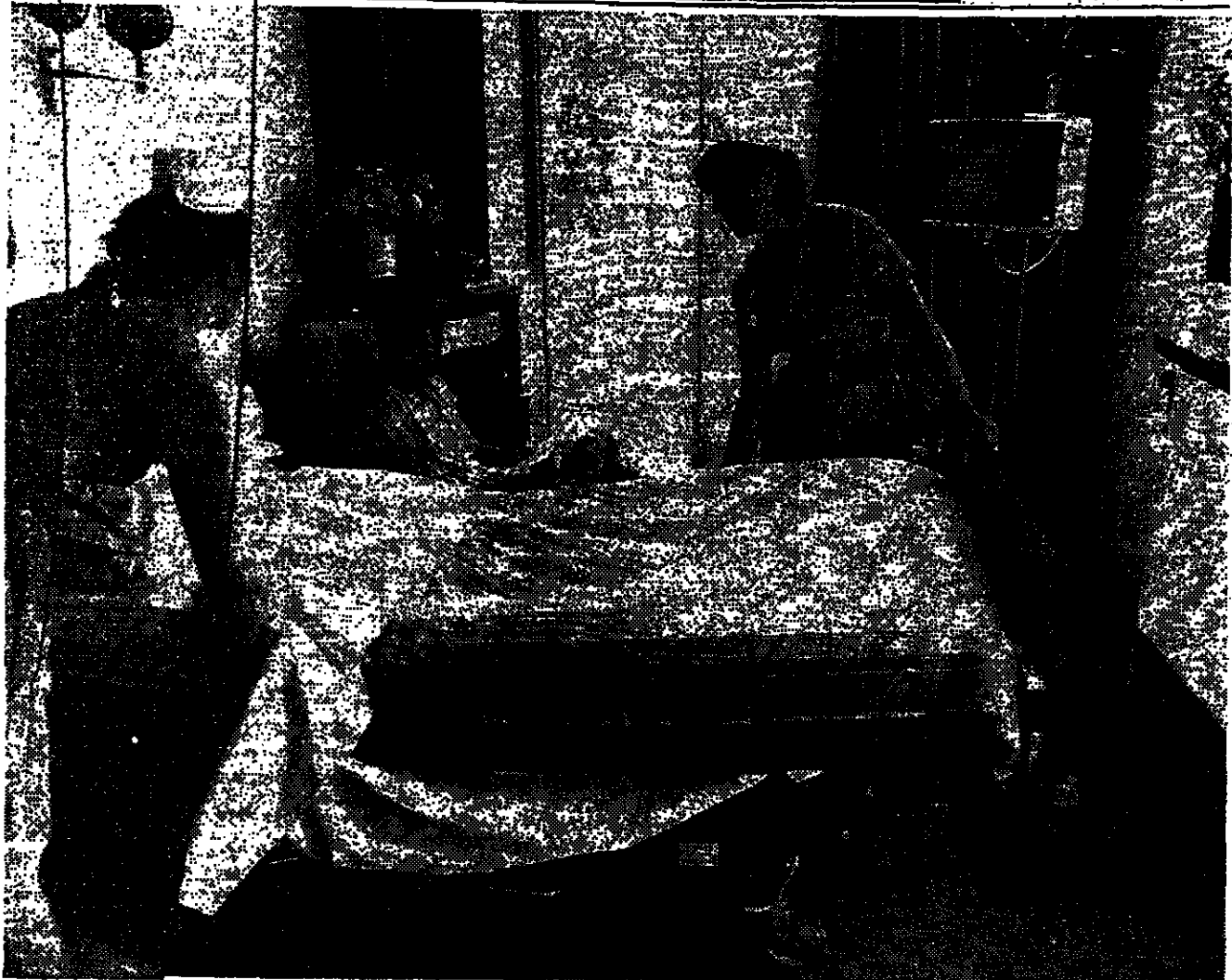
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PRIVATE HEALTH



A happy patient in a room at the Churchill Clinic. Picture by Robin Laurence

Staffing absorb more than 60 per cent of total running costs of a hospital. It is not surprising, therefore, that great care is taken at a private hospital to invest appropriately and effectively. The staff, together with the facilities which the hospital offers, is what doctors entrust it with care of their patients.

One of the reasons for staffing a private hospital is flexibility, the type of ability that is not necessarily available to the National Health Service. The latter, an employer of almost a million people, is inhibited by size, by established traditions and, not least, by local and national fiscal control.

Private hospitals, on the other hand, have the advantage of being able to set their own rules, within the constraints of legal and medical practice, and of having minimal fiscal control compared to that faced by the public sector.

The relationship between doctors and private hospitals differs from that of the public sector. With the exception of medical director or his agent and residential medical staff doctors are independent of what is on offer.

In few instances, the doctor has invested in the hospital either financially or with a degree of commitment. Most often, they have approved the company to provide the facilities they need.

## Where the patient is always right

In their turn they attract, and may pay on a fee-for-service basis, their medical colleagues. While allowing doctors collectively to decide upon which supplies and equipment they use, from sterile disposable hand towels to highly specialized technology, the private sector generally does not cater to an individual consultant's whim, a failing for which the NHS is sometimes criticized.

In BUPA hospitals, the 70 or 80 doctors who may use the hospital during the year form the hospital's medical society from among whom are drawn the medical committee that discusses clinical requirements with the company.

"There has to be a certain amount of give-and-take with the medical society", Mr Philip Codd, of Bupa, says. "But although we are a non-profit-making company, we don't want to make a loss. We have to provide the best facilities within the budget."

The link between the doctors and the hospital is the hospital manager or director. In Bupa's case, the contact is through the medical committee and its chairman: some companies employ a medical director.

The hospital manager is broadly equivalent to the NHS hospital administrator. But where the health service admin-

istrator's qualifications have centred around the running of a public institution, its links with the national welfare system and accountability to Parliament through a number of executive levels, the private sector demands different qualities from its top managers.

At Humana's 225-bed Wellington Hospital, for example, the executive director, who like all the company's heads is American, has a masters degree in business studies which was followed by a specialized course geared towards hospitals.

Mr Bruce MacLeod, Humana's executive director, has five British senior managers all reporting directly to him. Dr Arthur Levin, the medical director and the founder of the hospital, advises on medical policy. Other spheres are covered by the director of finance, the director of housing and two associate directors, one responsible for the medical support services such as physiotherapy, laboratory, X-ray and pharmacy facilities, the other dealing with the ancillary services of catering, security, cleaning, stores and buying.

Within these four divisions, staffing which accounts for about 73 per cent of the running costs, is about 400 people. This, as Miss Sheila Edwards, director of marketing and a former

director of nursing, points out, is affected by seasonal fluctuations. Christmas, for example, is a quieter time than summer when recruitment increases. For this reason, and in addition the "establishment" of the hospital, the Wellington, in common with many hospitals, maintains its own pool of nurses, or nurse bank, on whom it can draw when needed.

In general terms, she says, "the volume of nursing depends upon the intensity of their work and the volume of patients in the hospital at any one time."

Mr Peter Smith, of AMI Hospitals, agrees. "We are subject to such extremes in occupancy levels. One day it may be bursting through the roof, the next day it's very quiet," he says. Operating theatres may be extremely busy during mornings and evenings but show little activity in the afternoon. The cooperation of the staff over time is thus paramount.

"A lot of our staff at fairly short notice, will swap their working hours or days off," he says, "and this is an indication of the sort of helpful cooperative spirit we have."

AMI's hospitals also draw on their own nurse banks, a system which has extended to some catering and housekeeping departments.

"We have hospitals that are small enough for the director to know all his staff and to get across the message that we are all part of a team trying to run the hospital, that its success is down to us," Mr Smith says. "Everyone mucks in and performs according to that objective."

Although the charge had been levelled that private hospitals deprive the NHS of experienced personnel, Mr Smith says that staff come from a wide variety of working backgrounds.

In its early days, AMI recruited a number of health service administrators, but is now drawing more from those with experience of the private sector or from other business backgrounds. Nurses have been attracted from areas of unemployment and housekeepers, for example, from the hotel industry, he says.

The hospital business also makes good use of part-time staff. Many married nurses, in all areas of the industry, prefer not to have a full-time commitment. About a third of hospital employees are part time, Mr Smith says.

In a 41-bed hospital in the Wirral, Merseyside, of the 95 people employed, 38 are part time, according to Mrs Alison Dawson, of Bupa.

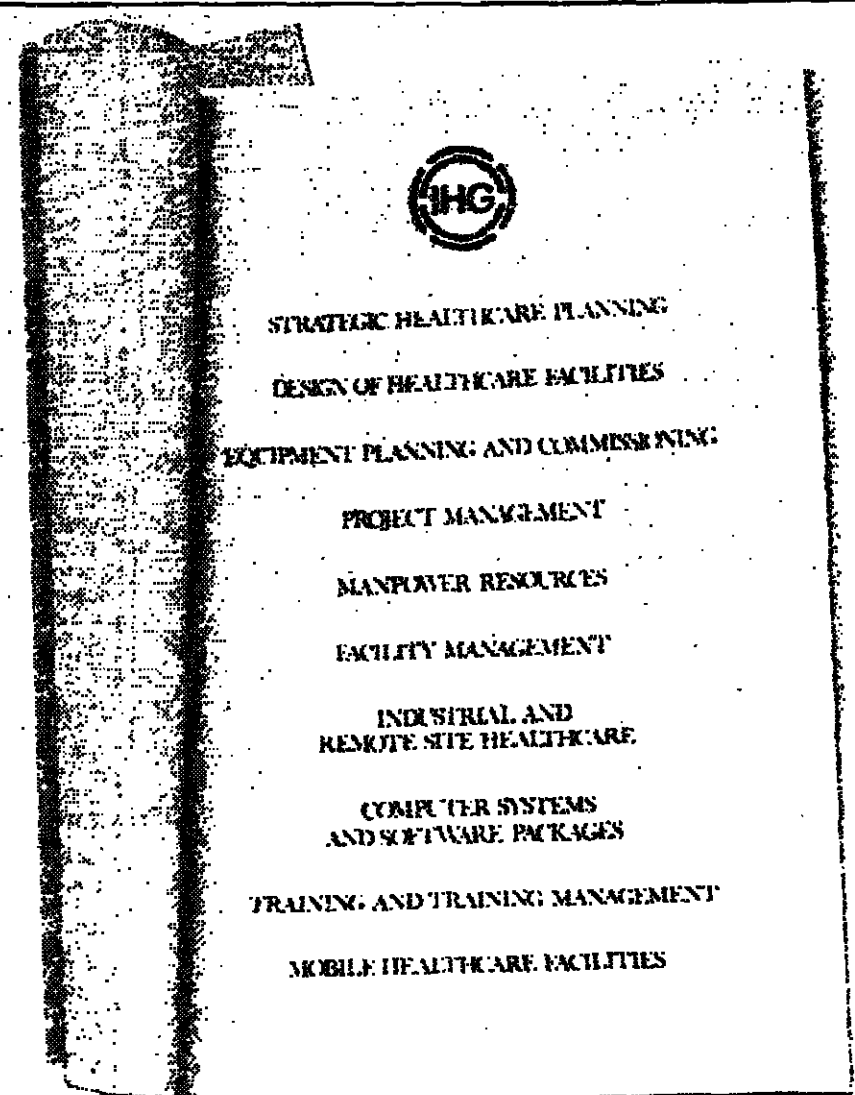
Most are nurses, but they also include laundry workers, catering and housekeeping staff, radiographers and physiotherapists, although some companies prefer to have full-time physiotherapists. Clerical staff and secretaries and receptionists may also work part time.

Perhaps unusually, Bupa's Wirral hospital employs contractors to manage its catering services. "The catering manager, his assistant and the head chef are all supplied by the contractor," Mrs Dawson explains. "The reason being that the contractor, with his larger operation, can use all his expertise." Other catering staff, the cooks and bottle washers, are hospital employees.

Generally speaking, those with managerial responsibility and that includes responsibilities for budgets, a strong mark of the private sector are full time employees. It is this same level of responsibility that attracts many managers, giving them a work satisfaction and degree of control that is not always available elsewhere.

The maxim that "the patient is always right" is part of the code in the private health service and for nurses this can include work, like fetching and carrying, that is less than medical care. Those who dislike that inclusion, leave. Those who remain find themselves in an industry employing skills from medicine and engineering to accounting and portering, all aimed at restoring people to health.

Pat Blair



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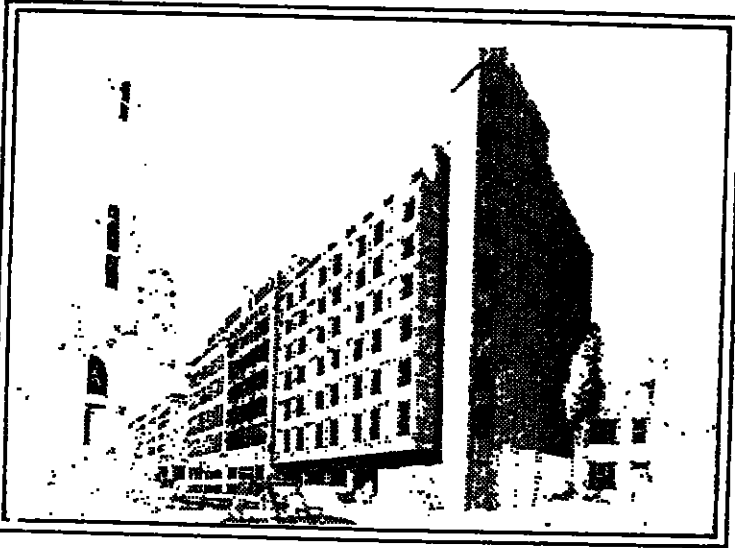
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## When your GP goes private

How often has one heard the question: "Do you know a good GP?" A 1981 survey reported by the Institute for Social Studies in Medical Care found that 90 per cent of patients were satisfied with their GP, but a *Which* survey just published indicates that of the 1,300 members who took part in the survey half had experienced various problems - 26 per cent complaining of long waits at surgery, 20 per cent of difficulty in making appointments and 14 per cent of lack of confidence in GP's diagnoses.

In Britain today there are around 26,700 GPs. Their lists, which average 2,200, nevertheless range from a few hundred in sparsely populated areas to 4,000. Dr Patrick Wood, one of Britain's very few GPs who see private patients only, is chairman of the Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine (FFM), a ginger group for private medicine.

In his view "20 per cent of NHS GPs are wonderful, running first-class efficient practices, but the average GP, who starts with a strong sense of dedication, frequently becomes disillusioned. The trivia with which the NHS bombard him hampers his ability to look after his patients as he would like - the current system does not get the best out of our GPs. Some 20 per cent of GPs may be neither bright nor dedicated and provide a poor service."

The FFM's principal aim is to persuade the Government to allow private patients to get drugs on NHS prescription. Dr Wood says: "Every British person is entitled to NHS care. If a person opts to pay extra to buy a GP's time, yet is still eligible for NHS X-rays, operations and domiciliary visits, why should he have to pay more than the NHS prescriber? - it is illogical." One consequence of private patients having to pay for drugs is that reputable private GPs

take greater care in deciding whether a drug is really necessary and in seeking effective yet economical drugs.

No one knows how many people in Britain seek private GP care. The number is probably small, the largest concentration being in the South-east, particularly central London.

Dr Wood's Ipswich practice exemplifies a trend, although it consists of largely middle-class families, he and his partner have a surprisingly high proportion of white and West Indian working class patients. One, a West Indian worker in an agricultural machinery company who has a wife and three children, said that he chose to go to a private GP "to get results; my NHS GP for 19 years never examined us, but just gave us prescriptions."

A Hertfordshire woman doctor's experience illustrates the interest in private GP service. Five years ago she put up a plate. She now has 600 patients and has to turn away many others as she feels that 600 is the maximum number that she can properly care for with her family commitments. One of her patients, a dentist with a wife and two young children, went to her four years ago "because we wanted to build up a rapport with our doctor and were tired of seeing different doctors each time we went to surgery." He says that the average medical consultation bill for his family is £100-£150 a year, on top of which he has to pay for drugs.

Who are the reputable private GPs today? There are the traditional family GPs, the GPs who wish to live and practice in an area which is closed to any more NHS practice and an unknown number of NHS GPs who are prepared to take some private patients.

An example of the first is a 54-year-old doctor who took over his father's Hampstead

If you ask the British Medical Association how many doctors are involved in private practice, they cannot tell you. In fact at no time can they tell you exactly what all the registered doctors are doing. Some are in the armed forces, some are retired, some out of work, some have given up medicine and are doing something else.

One opinion said that almost all doctors could be said to be involved in private practice, even if all they did was the occasional life insurance medical, for which they were paid. Progress into private medi-

cine is hazardous. "You have to have been to a 'good' hospital" said one doctor. "It's rather like 'good' barristers' chambers. Do your training at a good teaching hospital, become senior registrar, and go on to consultancy work based on a good teaching hospital. If you come from an old municipal hospital in the East End, it doesn't matter how good or how dynamic you are - you will not succeed in private practice."

This may seem a cynical view, but there is some truth in it. To the outsider, doctors in this country appear to be trained in the most haphazard manner, with no career structure or ladder up which they may climb to the top. They are often unemployed at crucial periods in their working lives, unable to plan for the future, either professionally or personally.

Doing research or demonstration jobs in anatomy and physiology are ways in which the young doctor can be paid while waiting for a job to materialize. Research also enables you to keep a step ahead, though there are conflicting views on the value of research. "A research degree", said one doctor, "looks good on paper, but it often has absolutely no relevance to anything you do after that. It merely indicates that you have an ability to gather your thoughts together and set them down on paper."

For the junior doctor, the professor sits at the top of a very broadly based pyramid, composed of the rest of the staff, poised for flight as soon as they can make it. Today, the position is that a lot of them will remain work horses, and never get to the top. In the past many doctors came from abroad to qualify, and returned to their country of origin once they had done so. This is no longer the case.

"Out of every four senior registrars", said one doctor, "perhaps two, and possibly three, are simply going to be wasted." There is now pressure from the doctors for more consultant posts to be available, which might have the effect that consultants might find themselves doing jobs their juniors once did - naturally, this is not a popular idea. "I'm not going to get up at night and put up a drip", said one consultant, "I've done all that."

Why do consultants go into private practice? In a favoured and fearfully expensive area of London - Harley Street and the adjoining streets - a consulting room and its accompanying expenses can eat up £30,000 a year, and bad debts, in a bad year, can come alarmingly high.

"I went into private practice, first for the money", said a consultant. He wished to give his children a private education, and this was the start. "I also like to have other work beyond my NHS specialty, which is cancer, and so I do general work privately. My private patients, especially from abroad, have some very interesting pathology, and conditions you would not normally see in this country, and this helps me in my work in general."

For the general practitioner, private practice is somewhat different, in that the providers associations will not pay out for general practice



practice in 1957. He now has a private practice in St John's Wood which not only consists of foreigners and wealthy Londoners but students, semi-skilled people such as postmen and butchers and the elderly. Because the elderly still think in terms of a 7s 6d visit to the doctor he rarely charges his full 1/2-hour consultation fee of £20.

This doctor says that he knows all his patients well and, having been trained to consult and confer, knows where to find the best clinical diagnosis and treatment. He has the time to chase up appointment clerks, write good letters and visit patients in hospital. He doesn't mind being on call 24 hours a day (friends cover occasional weekends and holidays) and finds that patients rarely call him out unnecessarily - even if they don't always appreciate that he has to eat he receives a steady flow of calls through mealtimes.

Private GP care gives him tremendous job satisfaction; the disadvantages are that he can't be ill and that, since the practice is only just viable, he has saved little for retirement.

However, private enterprise often pioneers new ideas when a need arises. An example of private enterprise creating an alternative model for primary care is the Harrow Health Care Centre in Middlesex. Claimed to be Britain's first fully comprehensive private GP service, it opened in November 1982. It was conceived by Dr Michael Goldsmith, who after eight years as an NHS GP resigned because he realized that patients wanted a more personal and caring service. He spent two and a half years developing and researching his ideas. He raised £500,000 from a venture capitalist and industry (Air Call Holdings Ltd) and formed Independent Medical Associates Ltd, which plans to create a chain of private primary care centres.

Dr Goldsmith says, "The reason why private GP care hasn't taken off in Britain is people's fear of the open-ended expense." Since most medical insurance schemes won't cover GP care, he has devised a closed-ended scheme.

The centre has an annual subscription of £65 per adult and £52 per child to cover all

GP consultations, with the option of paying either £22 annually to cover all drugs or an average of £1.80 per prescription. It has its own non-profit making pharmacy, employing a pharmacist, so that the chemist's mark-up on the drugs (sometimes as high as 10 per cent) is eliminated. A one-for-all restriction fee of £10 covers an initial screening.

Among the 1,700 patients screened over the last seven months five cases of urogenital cancer, four of diabetes and one of coronary heart disease were revealed. One woman who had repeatedly gone to her NHS GP with stomach pains and had been treated for constipation was found to have cancer.

The centre employs two men and 11 women doctors, three nurses, three physiotherapists, a radiographer, a consultant radiologist, an administrative staff and the receptionists specially trained to be welcoming and helpful. Here is also a patient's care with the care, the doctors give nursing and administrative back-up and are paid a bent salary and the financial backers get a 25 per cent return on their investment. We have got out bureaucracy. The centre's tightly run; there is no wasteful people's money is spent daily on their care."

The centre has now organised a second care insurance scheme for tenants. Because of its emphasis on preventive medicine P, offer a 40 per cent discount on their normal secondary care scheme as they reckon that centre's patients will be no healthier than average. (Identically, the majority of centre's patients come from socio-economic classes C and D.)

Dr Goldsmith says, "largely through the efforts of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) high skilled and motivated NHS GPs now exist and it is no reason why my alternative primary care model should be taken up by the NHS. The centre is cost-effective, appears to provide patients with the care they need."

ta Levi

## The doctor's life

Dr Robert Lefever, who is an enthusiast for private general practice, and has been in it for 17 years, has robust views: "GPs have forgotten their clinical medicine and turned themselves into amateur sociologists", he declares going on to say that while the state should be concerned with major illnesses, like heart surgery, cancer, even major psychiatric illnesses, like schizophrenia, he feels there should be some differentiation on the provision of cough mixture and appetite suppressants.

The state has been unable to fulfil the major requirements - citing the long waits for hip replacements - and the GP with poor equipment, no X-ray, no unrestricted access to labs, sitting there writing prescriptions, sends seriously ill people off to a "real" or hospital doctor.

After five years of this, says Dr Robert Lefever, trailing a white coat, you will decline into being quite morose or making excuses.

Doctors should not really be trying to deal with someone who is depressed because of social reasons, doctors should be finding out whether they have a thyroid deficiency or anaemia. Dr Lefever finds that his skills are enhanced in the private health, because it is a challenge.

"I make less money now per hour than I did when I was with the NHS - but because I work longer hours, I make more in the end. Anyone going into private general practice for the money can forget it. It is said that people value what they pay for and this is, to a certain extent true, but the doctor has got to deliver, and the patient has to know it was worth paying for."

For the nursing profession

the problem is it exactly comparable. Doct can continue to practice medicine, at any period in their career. Nurses, in theory, should move out of nursing with motion. As Hilary Shenton of the Rayne Partnership, there is very little guidance nurses starting out on a call it is all too easy for a nurse to go straight through training and find herself in a job at a relatively early, with nowhere to go about nursing into administration or teaching, which is what the

continued page 8

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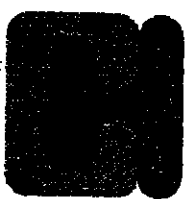
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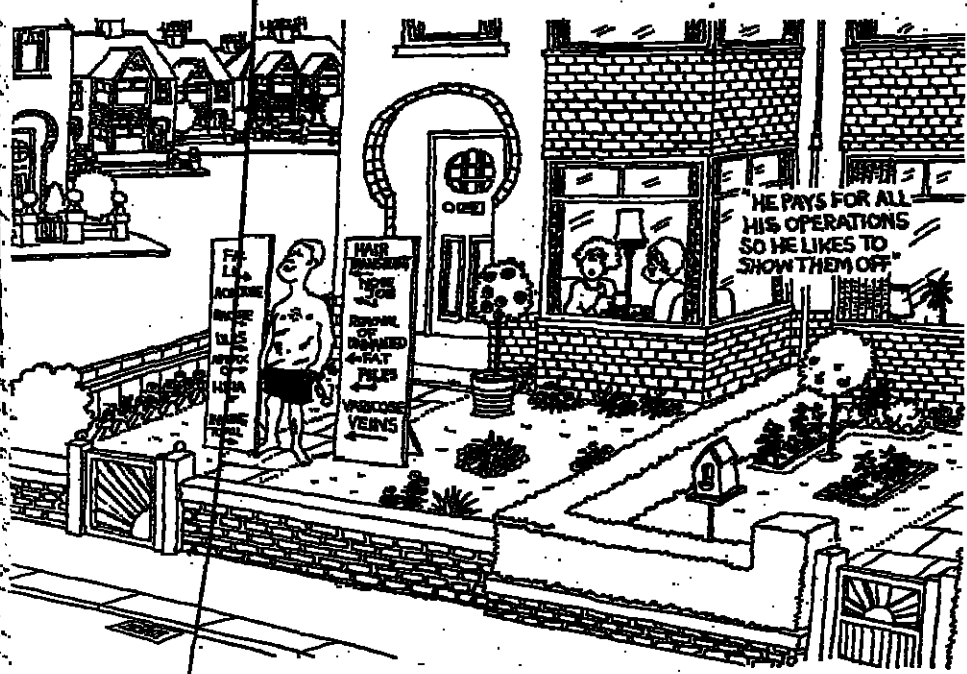
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## Should you wait or should you pay?



the strength and weakness of any private health system is that it responds to the consumer demand: it provides the care which the patient believes he needs, whether or not he believes it is medically sound. Germans are able to recuperate in spas and mud baths; in medicinal waters. Frenchmen are given a complete panoply of treatments for their disordered livers, and the Americans have the highest rate of operative surgery in the world.

In Britain, the private sector ranks after the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, and at first was limited to the more than a few consultants providing high-quality care to the minor or preferred patients. The provision began to expand more as more people came to the private sector with long waiting lists - which have since been reduced in length to one year or another.

Private health insurance is now able to have their own options for hernia, varicose veins, and even more major surgery for stomach ulcers, an prolapse of the uterus, and delay. (Since, however, waiting times for surgery in the NHS have been reduced, most patients are now having their treatment at NHS hospitals).

Patients who chose to go private realized that by doing so they guaranteed the services of an individual consultant, whereas in an NHS hospital operation might be performed by any member of the team. Buying competence is a subtle but important factor in the choice between the two sectors.

The rapid growth area for the private sector in the 1960s and 1970s was in health screening. Regular health checks are seen to be the man and woman in the street, but most NHS doctors have refused to carry out the sort of annual medical examination that is routine in North America.

The lure of these checks has proved to be less in the event of an opportunity to go to the doctor to warn of the danger of smoking too much alcohol, or

too little exercise. Screening for breast cancer has proved very popular - while the NHS is still evaluating the techniques and the age ranges for whom screening can be proved to be worthwhile (as yet there is no scientifically convincing evidence that screening is effective in women under 50).

The private sector has also responded to increasing affluence by providing cosmetic surgery of all kinds, from the classic face lifts and nose jobs to more extensive surgical removal of unwanted fat.

Naturopaths, osteopaths, chiropractors and cell therapists provide a service that the public wants and is prepared to pay for. As yet, no one has questioned the right of individuals to shop around for virtually any treatment they have decided they need, nor the freedom of health practitioners to provide what the customer wants.

The least-publicized sector of private medicine - but again one that is growing in response to demand - is long-term care of the elderly with physical or mental disabilities or both. Britain has far less accommodation for the elderly than most other European countries and there are long waiting lists for the scarce NHS long-stay beds. The solution for many families is a private nursing home - not necessarily because the standard of care is any different to that provided by the NHS, but more often because a bed can be found in a private home with little delay.

Nevertheless, there are substantial areas of health care - such as facilities for mentally handicapped children, for severe chronic mental illness, and for alcoholism - in which the private sector makes little contribution in terms of overall numbers.

For more than 30 years, therefore, private medicine has responded to needs perceived by the public but either not met by the NHS or met too slowly. But the balance between the two sectors has been changing, and is likely to change more rapidly in the 1980s. The reasons are not so much political as technological.

The past 10 years have seen a dramatic growth in the complexity and effectiveness of medical treatments - and in

their cost. Virtually every western nation is grappling with a crisis caused by the rising costs of health care. So long as NHS expenditure marks time the service cannot fully exploit the very real advance made by medical science.

Two examples make the problem plain. Thousands of patients with painful arthritis of the hip have been restored to health by having a plastic/metal replacement joint. NHS waiting lists are so long for this operation that many of these patients have chosen to pay for their hip rather than have to wait two or three years at the age of 70. Surgeons are now getting good results with replacement knee joints; soon the queues will begin to lengthen for that operation, too.

Coronary heart disease, the biggest single killing disease in Britain, may now be treated with an operation to bypass the narrowed arteries supplying blood to the heart. The NHS can carry out only a few thousand such operations a year, our rate is less than half that in the United States. Here the dilemma facing the patient on an NHS waiting list is that he may die from his heart disease while waiting - but the cost of treatment in the private sector is likely to be £10,000 or more.

Finally, and most disturbing, are the advances being made in emergency medicine. Ever since the start of the NHS anyone injured in an accident on the roads or at work and anyone collapsing with a heart attack, stroke, or internal bleeding has been taken to the nearest hospital. Emergency medicine and surgery have, quite rightly, been the pride of the NHS.

New, expensive treatments and investigative techniques are now being introduced for such common medical emergencies as coronary thrombosis. If the NHS cannot afford to provide coronary angiography for all who need it, the private sector will do so - in the classic pattern of response to public demand. Britain would then be moving to the state long feared by health planners - one in which the ability to pay would determine the availability of life-saving medical treatment.

Dr Tony Smith

## The case for private practice

Some people believe that in a country with a national health service private practice should not exist. If honestly held this view must command respect. Unfortunately, at least some of those who hold such a view will not concede that there is an alternative view that deserves consideration. I believe that the continuation of private practice may be justified on three counts.

Firstly choice is essential in a free society. Economic considerations may preclude such a choice for many citizens, but that is a criticism of the financial structure of society rather than an argument against the existence of choice. Apart from the very poor, many people who elect to use the NHS have the means to use the private service but prefer to spend their money on consumer durables or foreign holidays. This is entirely a matter for them.

Secondly it is essential for staff and patients of the NHS that it should not be a monopoly provider of health care. For the staff - especially those whose professions are exclusively applicable to the care of patients - there must be alternative ways for them to earn a living. There must be a market place where an independent valuation may be put on their services, lest they find themselves tied inescapably to an unjust level of remuneration. Indeed it may be argued that the recent problems relating to the pay of non-medical staff in the NHS, particularly nurses, arose because the NHS is a near monopoly.

For patients, the existence of an alternative to the NHS provides a vital comparison against which the standards of NHS care may be judged. It is, of course, equally true the other way round. The NHS provides extremely well for emergency patients and those who are gravely ill and this is a great challenge for the private sector. On the other hand, the private sector provides extremely well for the more routine problems and must always be consumer oriented to a greater degree than the NHS. This competition is

advantageous to NHS and private patients.

Thirdly, British patients who seek private health care have paid their full share in the cost of the NHS. If, either by direct payment or by subscription to a provident association, they pay again for private service they are increasing the total pool of resources for the provision of health care and leaving much needed time and facilities in the NHS for others. It might be supposed that they would be particularly welcome in NHS hospitals on such terms but, sadly, this is often not the case. I see great merits in this arrangement, compared with a system that allows rebate of health contributions to those seeking other methods of insurance. It provides a clear protection against the accusation that the NHS subsidises the cost of private health care.

I have been primarily concerned with consultants. The overwhelming majority of them believe deeply in the underlying principles of the NHS and, if occasionally critical of the details of how those principles are carried out, they wish to see the NHS a strong and effective force in patient care. Consultants in private practice are not happy to see patients who are seeking private treatment, which they can ill afford, merely because they have failed to get the necessary treatment through the NHS. The welcome private patient is one who has freely chosen that path with the resources - be they personal or through insurance - that relieve him of anxiety about the financial consequences.

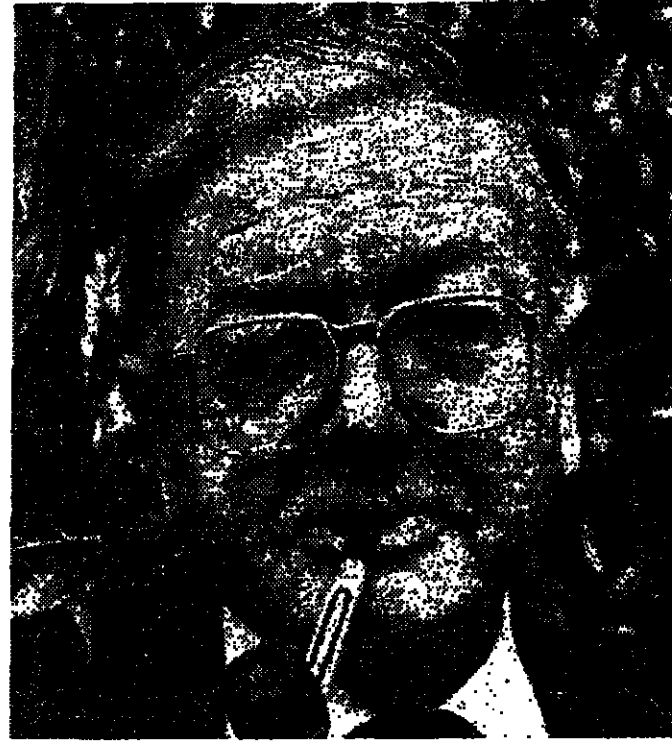
The consultant in the NHS may freely exercise his clinical function but, even so, is constrained by the rigidity of the system and the availability of resources. With private care he is able to conduct his work in the way he chooses. This feeling of professional freedom has, I am sure, more to do with the enthusiasm of consultants for private practice than has the financial reward. Some people think that private practice is a licence to print money. In my experience it is a licence to work

hard with rewards that are more than merely financial.

One of the criticisms most often levelled at private practice is that consultants who practise privately abuse the NHS. It is said that they give greater priority to patients seen in private than is clinically justified, that they put investigational work for private outpatients through the NHS without payments being made, that they use NHS equipment or facilities without permission or payment, and that they carry on private practice to an extent incompatible with their contractual obligations to the health service. I believe that the incidence of such abuses is small but any examples are publicised and damage the image of private practice far in excess of the importance of the incident.

Nevertheless, in the context of private practice, consultants must seek to imitate Caesar's wife. We cannot afford such stories if private practice is to continue to receive the public support it now does. Moreover, some of these practices are dishonest, exposing the perpetrator to the risk of the courts and of the Professional Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council. In addition, health authorities cannot be expected to look sympathetically on private practice if they are denied their legitimate share in the earnings, particularly at a time when they are facing financial difficulties. It is essential that private outpatients are clearly identified so that appropriate charges may be made on behalf of the authority. Moreover, it is hardly fair to colleagues who are contributing to the investigation of private patients if they are denied the opportunity to make legitimate charges for their services. The occasional patient, seen in private, who cannot afford further private investigation or treatment may be catered for through the NHS.

Private inpatient care is increasingly provided on non-NHS premises. This is almost certainly inevitable for political reasons and I have frequently urged my colleagues to make



David Bolt: choice is essential

such provision while there is still time. Even so, I have always believed in the geographical whole time principle, which minimises the amount of professional time lost in car travel and, no less importantly, reduces the length of the professional day and the strain that it entails by concentrating all the consultant's work in one place.

The fact that whenever an emergency arises whether among NHS or private patients, consultant skills immediately available is an enormous benefit to both groups of patients, and it is said that the reason that this ideal arrangement cannot continue to exist is political prejudice. If some future government takes steps to eliminate all private work from NHS premises the sufferers will be the NHS patients. There are areas of the country where the provision of alternative premises for private work will always be financially impossible and specialties where the capital costs of

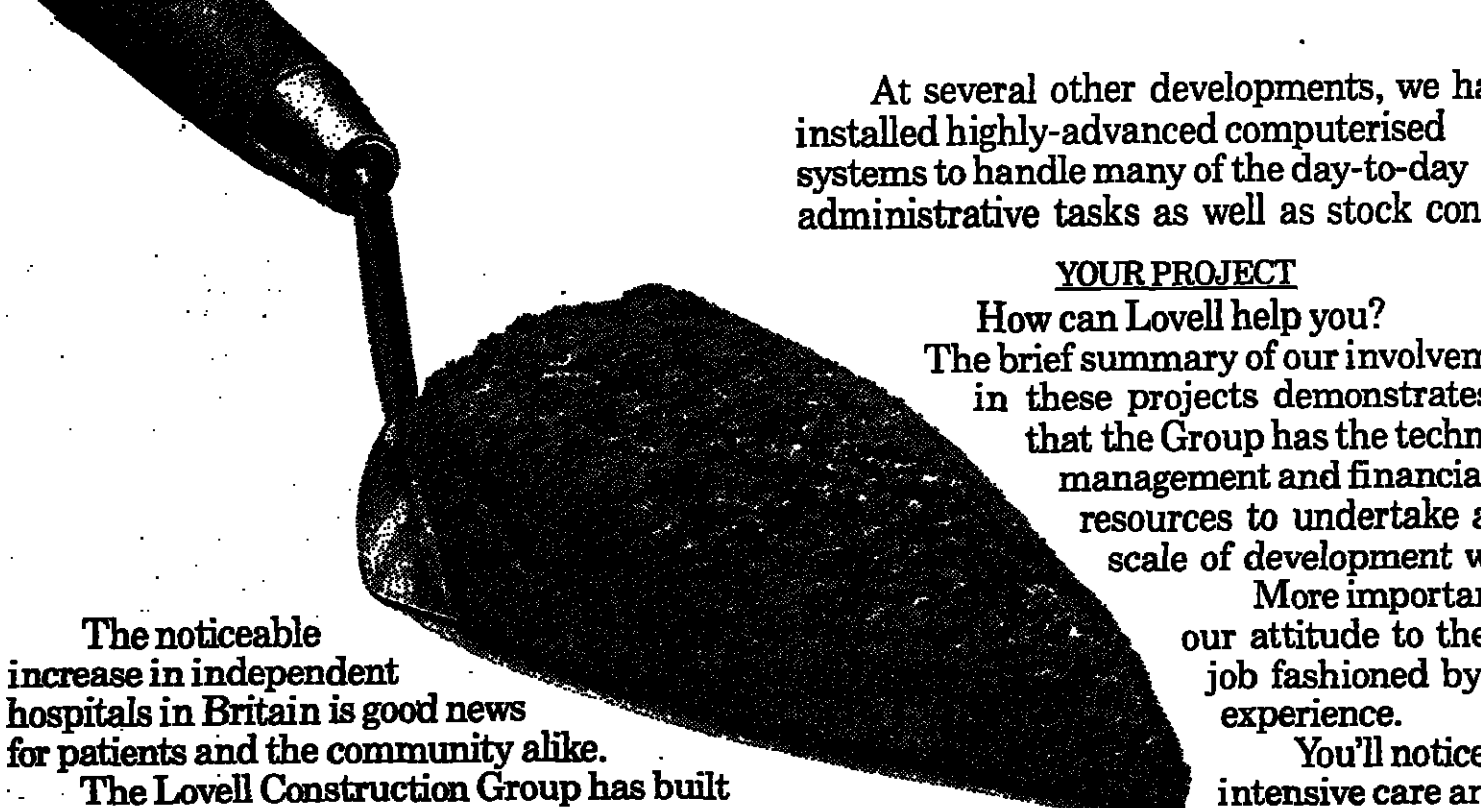
equipment may only be justified by intensive use. Recruitment of first class consultant staff to such places and specialties will become more difficult, whatever financial inducement the NHS may be able to offer. It is probably too much to hope that, in the fullness of time, sufficient agreement on the place of private practice in the provision of health care might emerge to allow a common policy on the subject between all political parties. The provision of satisfactory health care for all is more important than political attitudes.

This article originally appeared in the British Medical Journal.

David E Bolt

The author, a consultant surgeon, was chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee/Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services Independent Practice Subcommittee for six years and has recently retired.

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FRIDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

I was a flagging wife

From Mrs Peter Tahourdin, 2 Twyford Avenue, London. As the recently widowed wife of a British Council officer for 35 years, I have inevitably since my husband's death been thinking over our years together and realizing what an extraordinarily full, interesting and exciting life it has been.

I am, therefore, rather appalled at the idea that the majority of young British Council wives are as frustrated as would appear from Caroline Moorhead's article in Friday's Times (June 10). As an active member of the British Council Wives Association for many years, I do not believe that this is true. Obviously a wandering life has disadvantages, most of us have at least one posting we hate; most of us agonize over sending children home to school; most of us have periods when we long to set down roots in Britain. But in what other job could we see so many places of interest, come to learn about the way of life and the problems of other countries or meet so many eminent and interesting people?

Incidentally, the British Council Wives Association has studied the question of divorce and has found absolutely no statistical evidence that our rate of divorce differs in any way from the rate in a similar socio-economic class in Britain.

From Mrs Chris Grover, Tudor Hall School, Banbury, Oxfordshire. I went East straight from Oxford to be a company wife over 30 years ago. My inquiries about employment were coldly answered: "In this company wives do not work". This was quietly ignored the unwritten law and did whatever job was available, wherever my husband was posted. None was what I would have chosen to do, all were ill paid and some were dull, but all provided welcome relief from the predetermined role I was expected to play.

Control needed

From Mrs Barbara A Green, 24 Belgrave Court, Wellesley Road, Chiswick, London. Peta Levi (Wednesday Page June 8) reported the findings of the Woman survey which highlighted hostility towards mothers and children in public.

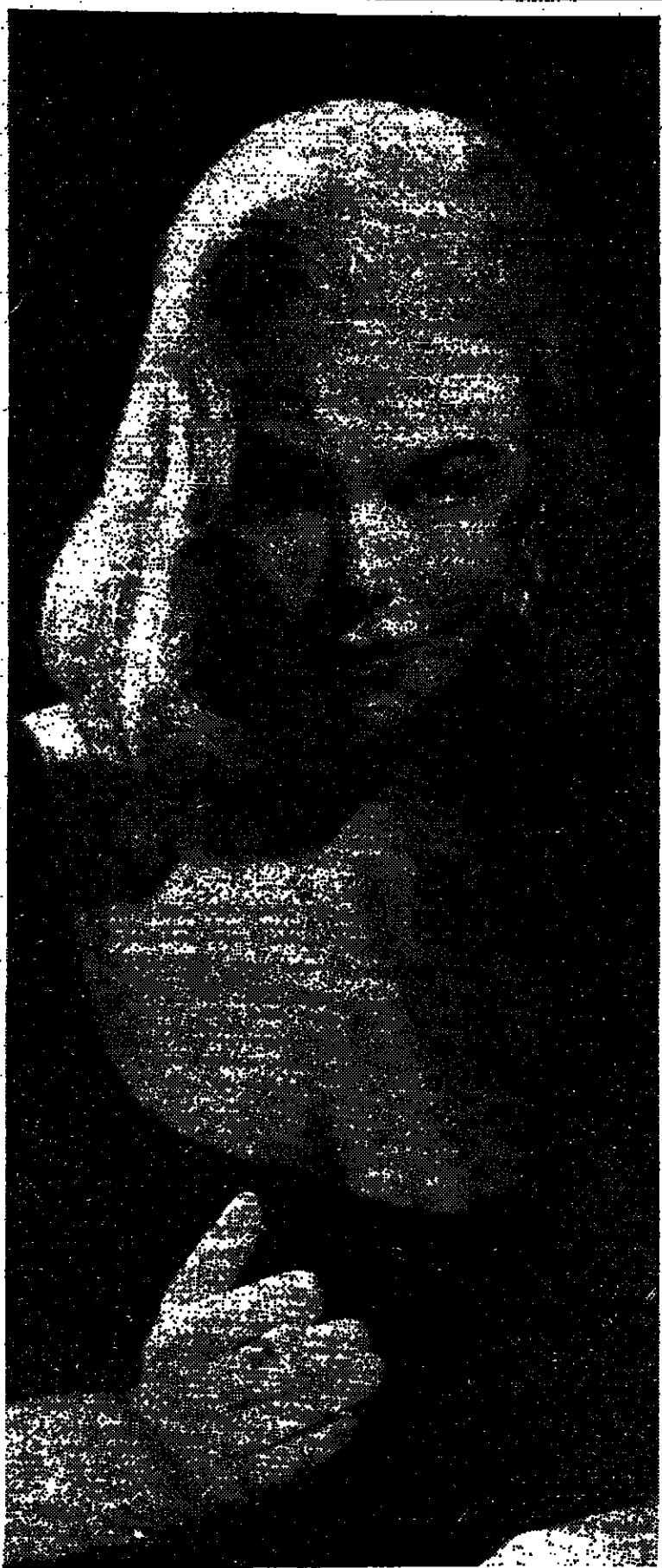
May I suggest that hostility is often expressed towards neither mother nor child per se, but towards the behaviour of those children whom the mother either cannot or will not control. There is, after all, a limit to the number of times that even the most tolerant person is prepared to have a supermarket trolley rammed into the back of their legs. Even in our local library children are allowed to run around shouting and screaming.

Hardly unknown

From: H. Stevens, 11 Oxenden Wood Road, Chelmsford Park, Orpington, Kent. With all due respect to Ms Penny Perick, I found her column (Monday June 13) misleading on three points.

First, an Earl's daughter, whose grandmother is lady-in-waiting to the Queen Mother is hardly "an unknown nursery school assistant". Second, very many young women are extremely anxious to have the benefit of a university education but, sadly, it is still more difficult for them to gain a place than it is for a young man.

Third, she assumes that a university degree is the key to "a brilliant career". My son, a Cambridge MA in his twenties, is unable to find a job of any sort.



Joan Heal in her days of West End stardom and, right, as she is today, "content and comfortable"

Whatever became of Joan Heal?

Joan Heal, once one of the brightest review stars of the theatre, won't describe herself as an alcoholic. "I loathe the word. It makes people think there is some wickedness there. And it makes us feel as if we are pariahs, lepers."

She is an attractive, well dressed, 60 year old woman. She lives in a small flat not far from Eaton Square, where she used to live for 20 years, but it is far enough to be considered on the other side of the track. Her sitting room is in brown and beige, but the furniture is obviously a legacy from the Eaton Square days. There are no mirrors. She broke all of them when she was drinking. Her little now is Earl Grey tea. She smokes a lot, putting her ash into a small gold ashtray with a lid to conceal the unpleasant smell of stale cigarettes.

Joan never quite believed her own myth. She felt as if she were a fraud, surviving on energy, personality and facility. "I was convinced I couldn't really act." But she did know that she had an extraordinarily good figure, although she worried about her looks. She laughs, perhaps a little too much, as she describes how Jack Hulbert auditioned her when she was first starting her career and told her that she had excellent legs, and that she would be a very good show girl if they gave her a lot of feathers and things to cover her face. She projected an image that she thought would attract, and when the effort of performing on and off the stage got too much, she turned to vodka and obliterated all the hurt.

She had not always used the bottle as a prop. As a young girl she hardly drank at all. She went through drama school without trauma. "Although I was so frightened of everyone I would just go away and hide myself." She met her first husband while she was working in *Intimate Review* with Dora Bryan. "Out came the stars and the moon, and *toujours l'amour* and I married him." She had a daughter and life was good. Her profession enticed her to drink.

Even after her marriage broke up, which left her sad but not broken hearted, she turned to her career for solace, not the bottle. She was confident enough to leave the musical stage, where *Grab Me a Gondola* had established her as one of Britain's top comedy stars, and go back to the straight theatre.

Her second husband was nine years younger than she was. She hadn't really wanted to marry again, but he persuaded her. "What neither of my husbands realized was that I was dreadfully insecure. I wasn't the jokey, larky lady that I had created, and sometimes I would be in moods where I couldn't pull it off and people would say 'you look



miserable, what's the matter with you?'. At that time I met everybody, the highest, the starriest, the most brilliant people, but I was very shy. I shall never forget a young actor saying to me: 'Joan, the trouble with you is you are one drink under. If you have a drink you'll loosen, you'll relax.' I don't blame him. I knew exactly what he meant. So before I went anywhere I used to have a drink."

"My second husband had a drinking problem - and I kept pace with him. Eventually he went to a psychiatrist and gave it up, and his career moved on terribly well. I, meanwhile, was beginning to lose confidence in myself. I don't know what happened, but my sense of fun started to leave me. I felt somewhere underneath it all I was a nothing. It was as though, if I was opened up and they could see my soul, they would know it was a seething mass of black maggots."

She had another child, a son. Her husband backed an enormously successful stage musical and to celebrate he took an inch of champagne. From that moment he didn't stop drinking and she says he drank himself out of his business. She had a recurring virus which caused paralysis, particularly in one of her legs. Sometimes she would limp, and when he was drunk her husband would mock her. Eventually, despite the happy times - and there were happy times, she says - they separated. She didn't want a divorce, she didn't want to leave him. For a while things continued as before. An au pair cared for her son while she worked. But then the

money ran out. "I was drinking a lot then. I came here to this tiny flat which seemed to be awfully dismal, but I tried to make something good of it."

For a while her son stayed with friends in the country. Then the Actors' Charitable Trust paid for him to go to prep school. "I was very mis, and so I drank. I would have conversations with people on the telephone, arrange to meet them, and not turn up because I couldn't remember even having spoken to them."

Her mother came to stay then, after a short while, committed suicide. "I was helped on the instant by the most adorable woman in the theatre, Evelyn Laye, who didn't know me from a bar of soap. She told me I had to work. And I got a job, through her, as a character actress. I got a bit better."

But then her health gave way again, and she turned back to the bottle. She was given a small part in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat* and one night she was told not to go on stage because she was drunk. She denied it, but she never worked again. She thought about the death of her mother, her two failed marriages and not being able to earn money. And she felt sorry for herself. "Then I discovered something. If I had a drink, it didn't hurt so much, and so the booze became my friend, it was an anaesthetic. It took away all the pain."

When her son came home, she sobered up a bit. She went down to one bottle a day. On Jubilee Day her

son went to a street party. Before he left he said "don't drink whilst I am out". As soon as the door shut she started gulping down the alcohol. She assumed they had spent a normal evening. The following day she thought she ought to admit she had taken a drink. Her son told her "Is that why I found you drunk on the hall floor?"

She says: "I looked at my 12-year-old son and the trust had gone out of his eyes. That was the worst moment of my life. I never wanted to commit suicide, but I went to bed, took a pill, and every time I woke up, I took another one, until they were all used up. I had to face the truth. I was a drunk."

Joan Heal tried several cures for drinking over the next 10 months. Eventually she saw a television programme about an alcoholic unit at the Western Hospital and rang them the following morning. She made two appointments, which she failed to keep, but eventually she did go. At first, everything went well - her honeymoon period - but then she had a lapse and started drinking again. She stopped, went back to the unit and managed to wear herself off drinking. She has not had any alcohol for four years and now runs movement and speech classes at the Western Hospital.

Her second husband stopped drinking before her and she says that they are now the best of friends. "I am very lucky. I am content comfortable. I like what I am doing. But if someone did ask me to play an interesting part, then yes - yes, I would."

Wendy Oberman

MEDICAL BRIEFING

It's tough for twins



Middle age is marked by an inability to read the honours list in the news papers: those who were young enough, or had a magnifying glass and could see the small print last Saturday, will have noticed that two identical twins were honoured. Major-General David Thorne became a KBE. Brigadier Michael Thorne a CBE. Not all twins do as well as the Thornes, who joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment together, went on to command different battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment at the same time, and have both subsequently had good staff careers.

Statistics show that twins have a more difficult life both physically and mentally than ordinary children. Their parents face special difficulties: quite apart from the problems of feeding and caring for two babies, parents later have to decide the correct balance between interdependence and independence for the twins. Should they be encouraged to dress alike? Should they go to the same schools? Are the parents giving more attention to the large and content baby, or to the smaller, demanding one?

A book out this month by Dr Elizabeth Bryan deals with all aspects of bringing up twins. It also offers suggestions for solving the medical and social problems facing parents when they find they are one couple in eight whose union has been doubly blessed.

A warning in the book is that the death of a twin seems to be responsible for a very much higher than usual incidence of mental breakdown in the survivor.

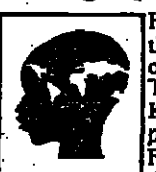
*The Nature and Nurture of Twins*, Elizabeth M Bryant, Baillière Tindall £9.95.

Friendly treat



Parliamentary candidates protect both their pockets and their health by misquoting the law of treating. Over the years they have persuaded the public that they are not allowed to buy their round at the bar for fear of being accused of trying to influence the elector. In fact the law is class conscious, but precise: our Victorian forebears decided that treating was only illegal if the recipient was not a friend, socially inferior, and was likely to sell his vote for a drink.

Curing leprosy



Having dodged the canvassers out for votes last Thursday, Knightsbridge pedestrians on Friday found themselves in the clutches of collectors for Leprosy. Donations to the charity enables people to fight leprosy without leaving the civilization of the Brompton Road. Among other projects Leprosy contributes grants to a number of home-based doctors, including research workers in London, Oxford and at Porton Down.

The thought of leprosy gives rise to a particular horror, partly because of the deformities it causes when untreated, partly because of most people's childhood briefing from the Bible. Contradicting the popular view, Dr Colin McDougal, the Oxford research worker and editor of *Leprosy Review*, told *The Times* that if patients cooperated, 80-90 per cent could be cured of their active disease, although some, particularly those who delayed treatment, were left with residual deformity.

Some of the best treated lepers in the world are the 300-400 in Britain who have occasioned such interest that they have been meticulously followed and had no chance of defaulting in their treatment.

Dr Thomas Stuttford Medical Correspondent

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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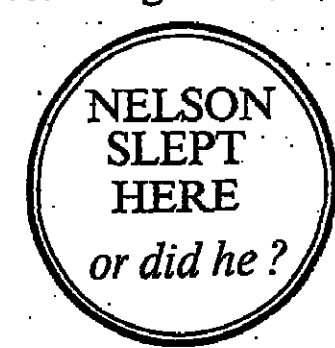


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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Eye-opener

For the first time in his 20-year tenure of the *Private Eye* editorship, Richard Ingrams has deputised one of his staff to take the chair during his absence on holiday. This is more significant than it sounds, for in the past Ingrams has usually left his chair to stand for himself, with often chaotic results. Lord Gnome's new protégé is 23-year-old Oxford graduate Ian Hislop, a former editor of the satirical student magazine *Pastime*. His current control of the *Eye* has impressed most of the old guard, not the easiest bunch to please, and fuelled speculation that Ingrams, 46, will step down soon and confer the Gnomish peerage on young Hislop.

### Bitter bout

A little known fact about the great Jack Dempsey, who has just died at the age of 88, is that while he was world heavyweight boxing champion in 1921, his agent had a stand-up row with another client, the equally great Eugene O'Neill. After a bitter bout of verbal pugilism, the playwright had his play, *The Straw*, withdrawn from Broadway because the agent, William A. Brady, had insisted that Dempsey be given a part. Boxer and writer never came to blows themselves - which was surely fortunate for O'Neill - the whole bizarre affair being conducted through their supposed ally. The story is doubly topical since another O'Neill play, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, now reviewing at the Riverside, Hamamshire, contains the line: "Sure you could have given Jack Dempsey himself a run for his money." This was first performed two years after the *Straw* debacle, but I cannot establish whether the champ found time to go and see it.

### Per cent proof

So confident was Jeffrey Evans of Dulwich that he was going to win the PHS competition for the closest forecast of last week's electoral swing, that he wrote on his entry: "Please send my case of Johnnie Walker Swing Deluxe Whisky to the above address where you are cordially invited to share it with me." The confidence was well placed, as his estimated percentage was 3.987 to the Conservatives, commendably close to result of 3.916. The whisky is on its way to SE24, and I might well follow it.

BARRY FANTONI



### Trop cher

Be warned against an offer which appears in a number of London freebooks for £2 off a giant Beaujolais sausage (current price £6.50) at Les Amis Gourmands, the purveyor of up-market victuals in Covent Garden. When confronted with the document, staff become unaccountably vague, fetch one of the sausages and weigh it. They appear to be as puzzled by the advertisement as I am, for the lowest priced giant Beaujolais sausage on display is £17.50.

### Former first

Rosalynn Carter, the former First Lady of America, is at last finishing her long-awaited book and emerging from her Georgia exile. While on a recent visit to New York with her husband Jimmy, she lunched with 15 women and spoke about her memoirs, which were due to be published last summer but which will not now appear before autumn. It was plain at the lunch that past criticisms - particularly of her attendance at cabinet meetings - still rankle; but I gather that she is now livelier, more open and philosophical than she was during her years at the White House. One of the guests, Kitty Carlisle Hart, said Jimmy Carter had once told her that his wife was the best hula dancer among the navy wives. "I was," said Rosalynn, "and it was fun. I've written about that. Sometimes, when I was working on the book, I would remember things and I just sat over the typewriter and cried."

I was within wine-throwing distance of Anna Ford yesterday, but resisted the temptation to avenge the wretched Jonathan Aitken because of the looming presence of Roger Cook. Check-pointers are celebrating his tenth anniversary, and Miss Ford, looking edible in white, had come to the Rugby Club of London to help to celebrate. Instead of becoming the first diarist to be beaten up by Cook, I settled for asking him what he thought of a *Time Out* piece which accused him of hogging the limelight while others do the work. His reply was a model of restraint: "It is sad to see such naked jealousy in print."

PHS

Frank Chapple, TUC Chairman, calls for new loyalties to counter Tory pressures

## Survival before socialism

In the run-up to last week's general election all my colleagues on the TUC General Council viewed the outcome as crucial. Some had played a major part in drawing up Labour's manifesto and a few had been responsible for Michael Foot's accession to the leadership. All were alarmed by the prospect of another Tory victory. Large sums of money were given, trade union officials were seconded to key marginal constituencies, union journals implored their members to vote Labour.

Now - several million pounds worth of members' money later - the "disaster" has happened. Labour has been routed, with 119 lost deposits and the lowest average vote since 1950. In a cruel twist of Denis Healey's eve-of-poll warning, it is Labour and not the Alliance which is a wasted vote in nearly half of the country.

The result of Labour's humiliating defeat is that we face up to five more years of unemployment, exclusion and attacks on trade union organization. Combined with several other trends, such as technological change, smaller plant size and the decline of manufacturing industry, the possibility of a Tory election victory in 1988 could leave the trade union movement as crippled as Labour was on June 9.

More than ever before, unionists have to do some hard thinking. Too much is at stake for sentimentality to dominate our decision-making. The greatest problem we face can be summed up as Socialism or Survival. So long as trade union leaders elevate the idea of socialism above all else, the greater the risk to the future of the trade union movement.

If the only conclusion we draw from June 9 is that we must work even harder to elect a Labour government in 1988, the likelihood is that we will face disaster in the long run. If we really believe that jobs, the run-down of social services and the protection of trade unionism are the priorities, we cannot subordinate the present to a distant dream.

Professional politicians may be able to sit back and assume that their turn will come; muse that politics are about "swings and roundabouts"; and reassure themselves with platitudes like "you win some, you lose some" but trade unions are different creatures. Years of decline can inflict terrible damage. Fifteen years of Conservative government could do irreparable harm to our organization and rights.

I keep referring to 15 years because I have little hope of Labour's ability to sweep the country at the next election. Moreover, the prospect of renewed infighting seems inevitable. The Labour Party remains deeply



divided at every level; the Alliance is likely to try to build on its recent success, and Tory threats to the funding of the Labour Party all add up to a gloomy picture. What makes it worse is Labour's narrow electoral base; its steady decline in popular support over the last 20 years and its lack of appeal to young voters.

If the prospects for Labour look grim, how can the unions avoid a similar fate? The answer is that we have to choose between socialism and survival.

The introduction of proportional representation would probably mean that a socialist government could never be elected. But on the evidence of last Thursday, that

seems probable even under a first-past-the-post system.

But if proportional representation votes socialism, it would also veto rampant anti-unionism. This point has already been raised in my own union and I am convinced that it will not be long before some rank-and-file members start suggesting that instead of giving our money to a no-hope Labour Party, we should donate it to the cause of proportional representation.

This issue is especially important in view of the Government's astonishing feat of winning more seats for fewer votes. If trade unions want to argue that the Government lacks majority support, they can do

so from the position of endorsing proportional representation. So long as our movement is committed to the unfairness of first-past-the-post government, it cannot complain when the system it supports produces bad results.

An alternative to full-scale trade union support for proportional representation could be a mixture of fundamental change in the Labour Party and a redefining of the relationship between the party and ourselves. The party has to become electorally attractive - capable of winning the next general election. This means jettisoning extremist policies, ousting inflexible, reactionary leaders and establishing a new relationship with the trade union movement.

If links remain, it is important that we should not be an electoral liability to Labour and that, in turn, the party should not be an obstacle to our dealing with any non-Labour government. Both wings of the movement will have to be more independent of each other.

I thought that it was tragic when Michael Foot was interviewed on *Panorama* and had to appear incapable of giving a straight answer on pay policy in case it was instantly repudiated.

Exactly the same is likely to happen to any new leader. Let us suppose the Tories keep their word and introduce legislation compelling democratic elections in trade unions. Does anyone really believe that it will help Labour's prospects in 1988 if the trade unions insist that the party's manifesto must include a commitment to repealing a measure that rank-and-file members solidly support?

Greater independence from the unions could help Labour in 1988. Likewise, some independence from Labour might also have helped us on June 9. If we had not been so completely tied to the party's constraints we could have urged our members to vote SDP or Liberal if they had a better chance of winning. Over and over again our loyalty to Labour let the Tories in on June 9.

The next two years will help us to decide the way we need to go. If Labour miraculously recovers,

ditching unpopular policies, sheds the extremist image, elects an attractive leader and recovers electoral support, all might be well. But if it fails, those of us who believe in the survival of effective trade unionism will have to defend the movement before anything else. We cannot allow a bunch of extremists to destroy us as well as themselves. If Labour cannot save itself, we have to consider our own survival. Anything less would be a betrayal of working people.

The author is general secretary of the Electrical, Electronic, Telecommunication and Plumbing Union.

## The doubts that linger as the US economy recovers

But with the coming of spring, consumer spirits began to lift. Retail sales have climbed by two per cent on average in each of the past three months. Incomes, particularly from wages and salaries, have risen more strongly as unemployment has come down from the December peak of 10.8 per cent and the number of jobs has expanded. Larger than usual tax refunds in April, when all Americans file their own tax returns and settle up with the Internal Revenue, have also spurred consumption.

Economists now expect real growth, after inflation, to proceed at an annual rate of 6 to 8 per cent in the March to June period, compared with the 2½ per cent growth rate in the first three months.

Rising production and demand on this side of the Atlantic will feed through to the rest of the world, just as high US interest rates and falling output and employment worsened economic conditions in Europe, Japan and the developing world in the first two years of President Reagan's term in office. At the Williamsburg economic summit last month, Mr Reagan and his senior

officials pointed to rapid recovery as evidence that the US is at last doing its bit to help rather than hurt the world economy. Large American trade deficits and a strong dollar are helping America's allies who can now sell more in expanding US markets, the Treasury Secretary, Mr Donald Regan, said.

But the critical question for Britain and other US partners is whether America's recovery will last and, if it does, whether the clash between rising private sector demands for credit and a still fairly restrictive credit policy will push interest rates up again.

Mr Regan was much less reassuring about this at Williamsburg. Worried finance ministers from the other six industrialized nations heard a blunt warning that American economic policy is already being made with the 1984 Presidential election firmly in mind. That means for the moment that policy is on auto-pilot.

Meanwhile, monetary policymakers at the Federal Reserve Board, where Mr Paul Volcker is

now widely expected to be re-appointed as chairman, remain uneasy about the danger of renewed inflation, and thus unwilling to ease credit much further.

Though American interest rates have fallen considerably in the past year they remain unusually high, particularly in relation to the low rate of inflation.

At home, this hurts spending on interest-sensitive items and may limit the recovery in business investment which economists expect to follow the revival in consumer spending. The effects overseas are, first, to hold up interest rates worldwide, as other countries try to limit the rise of the dollar and decline of their currencies; and second, to increase the burden on developing nations of servicing their huge debts, which are usually tied to US interest rates.

These ill effects mean that it is not clear which would be better for Britain: a strong American recovery that would increase world trade and provide more impetus for exports to the US; or a weaker recovery that might not have such a big direct effect on world trade, but would carry less risk of high interest rates.

The best outcome of all - strong, steady US growth with lower interest rates - is unlikely to materialize while policymakers here remain haunted by the spectre of past inflation, nervous about going all-out for growth and unable to make up their minds about what kind of budgetary and money policy they want.

Caroline Atkinson

## A legal way out of the tribal homelands

Rukhoto came to Johannesburg in search of work and got a job with the engineering firm he has been with ever since. As a "contract worker", he was not allowed to bring his wife with him.

She remained behind on their small plot in Gazankulu, the "homeland" of the Shangaan people in northern Transvaal, and he would periodically visit her. They now have four children.

In 1980, on the advice of Black Sash, a dedicated group of mainly middle-class white women who try to help blacks to find a way through the maze of apartheid laws, Mr Rukhoto applied to the East Rand Administration Board (Erab) for permanent urban residence rights.

Probably less than a quarter of all South Africa's 21 million blacks have this status. It gives a man the right to have his family living with him in a black township in a house rented from the government or purchased on a 99-year lease, and to move from one township to another. Mr Rukhoto's application rested



Rukhoto: will others follow?

on a 1952 amendment to the 1945 Black Urban Areas Consolidation Act, the main influx control law. This offered permanent urban status to anyone who had worked for the same employer for 10 years or for different employers for 15 years.

The authorities replied, however, that a later law, passed in 1968, had closed this loophole.

Backed by the Legal Resources Centre, a group of liberal white lawyers who give legal aid free to blacks who would otherwise be unable to afford it, Mr Rukhoto took his case to the Rand Supreme Court. He won, in September, 1981. But the authorities would still not give way and took the matter to the Appeal Court.

According to government sources, there are about 800,000 black contract workers in urban areas, of whom about a third, it is estimated, are in a position, as a result of the Appeal Court ruling, to follow Mr Rukhoto in getting their right to permanent urban status stamped

into their *doppies*, the hated pass book which all blacks must carry. Pro-government newspapers, calculating that each of the 270,000 or so workers who would thus qualify would on average be accompanied by five family members, have painted sensational and alarmist pictures of a "black flood" of more than 1,500,000 people engulfing "white" cities.

In fact, many of those affected will be single men or already living co-habiting illegally with their families in urban areas. One respected independent economist at Cape Town University calculates that the court ruling would be unlikely to add more than 145,000 people immediately to the estimated 6,000,000 blacks living in townships outside the tribal "homelands", with perhaps up to 30,000 new people qualifying annually thereafter.

None the less the government has been put on the spot. At a conservative estimate there is already a housing shortage of 300,000 units in black townships, as a result of a deliberate government policy of restricting the housing available to blacks in "white" areas. Mr Rukhoto himself rents a room from another black in the Katsibong township outside Germiston, and believes it could take four or five years to get a house. However, if the government tries to reverse the Appeal Court ruling, it will destroy what little remains of its reformist reputation.

Michael Hornsby

David Watt

## Who will invent our foreign policy?

"Better the Devil you know" is one of the ruling principles of international affairs, and on this basis alone Margaret Thatcher's victory would have been a relief to most foreign governments, including some not obviously keen on her style and policies. If you add to this criterion the endless troubles and complications that could be foreseen flowing from a Labour government's "little England" determination to leave the EEC and refuse cruise missiles, you can imagine what a pretty well every politician in Western Europe and the US and, secretly, perhaps even in the Third World, and the Communist bloc, is feeling on the subject today.

But things go further than that. Mrs Thatcher is becoming an international phenomenon. She has been in office longer than any other major world figure, with the exception of Mr Trudeau and Mrs Gandhi, and her representative authority, now resoundingly renewed, is therefore growing as the time. Her reputation as a tough and formidable leader is also increasing, as it must and will until she falls.

The "Falklands factor" is not as much of a plus as Mrs Thatcher herself evidently believes, but it has certainly established in the international community her possession of what I called at the time the "man of war" factor (that extra endowment which suggests that a Nixon, a de Gaulle, a Khomeini, or a Gaddafi, is a dangerous customer really capable of acting on perilous principles such as "death rather than national dishonour").

In short, the world at large is impressed - probably considerably more so than the British electorate, less than a third of whom were prepared to vote for her. Mrs Thatcher, therefore, has political assets which can be cashed on the foreign exchanges. At various moments in the election campaign she herself seemed to be aware of this and indicated that she would now expect to be playing a more prominent part on the international stage.

By putting Sir Geoffrey Howe into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office she has made this transformation easier, for now as Foreign Secretary, instead of an extremely experienced operator with strong ideas of his own (Lord Carrington) and a less experienced operator also with ideas which in some respects ran contrary to her's (Mr Pym), she has a competent lawyer who sticks doggedly to his brief and has demonstrated over the last four years that he can be relied upon to carry out her wishes in spite of the doubts and reservations of a powerful department of state.

All this amounts, on the face of it, to a considerable opportunity. But what is she going to do with it? The answer is that at this moment she probably doesn't know herself. If one talks to anybody - official, politician, or academic - who has ever attempted to get her interested in the construction of a systematic policy in almost any field, one finds that it was impossible to get past her impatience with "theory" and her tendency to rush towards those bits of the subject - not necessarily the most important or significant - which seem to offer some kind of refuge for one or two simple preconceptions.

In the domestic sphere Mrs Thatcher has relied on Sir Keith Joseph to provide a framework into which her own instinctive reactions can be placed. Monetarism has

served well in this respect because it purports to offer some eternal "verities" and a rudimentary strategy which accords with housekeeping analogy about thrift and living within one's means. Insofar as political realities have forced modifications to all this, that has never bothered Mrs Thatcher for the theory never interested her in the first place.

Foreign policy is more difficult. Pure theory is not much help and the business of devising a strategy has to depend on a mixture of flair, far-sightedness, and experience. Prejudgments and instincts may be a useful guide in particular short-lived predicaments, but they will not make foreign policy.

Of course, it can be maintained that Britain has not had a foreign policy in that sense for some time. Lord Carrington, the arch-pragmatist, was flying by the seat of his pants and did it very well until he ran into a mountain in thick cloud. Francis Pym was more or less on the automatic pilot by the end. The truth is that the framework of a Conservative foreign policy for the 1980s does not exist.

To suggest what such a policy should contain needs more space and perhaps more Conservatism than I can dispose of, but the main strategic problems are easily stated:

● Where should we position ourselves as between Europe and the United States in the disputes of the coming decade? Should we contribute to a more distinctive European voice within the alliance?

● What are the relative priorities of the various forms of defence (nuclear, conventional, ground, air and naval) and what is the relative importance of defence and economic investment?

● How do we defend our interest in the Middle East? If forced to choose - as we may well be - do we lose more by backing South Africa or black Africa?

● Should we try to maintain our cultural influence and if so, how do we do it while cutting "extras" like the BBC, the British Council and overseas students grants?

If these problems are put alongside Mrs Thatcher's beliefs about British foreign policy as they have emerged in the last four years, there is not much match. Her personal list of vital propositions includes:

● Britain should be generally more assertive in protecting its own interests.

● We are not being tough enough with the Soviet Union and not spending enough on defence.

● Our main ally is the US.

● We should stay in Europe, but continue pressing for "better terms". North-South issues are boring, the Third World is feeble and we should think hard about handing out money to such countries.

These are all, with the possible exception of the last, quite reasonable propositions, and some of them, if applied to the problems might answer some. At the same time, they will fail to answer others and positively militate against the solution of others still. But quite apart from these practical difficulties, there is the point that it is impossible for Mrs Thatcher to exercise the influence in international affairs that she evidently thinks she can unless she is able to produce a coherent picture of what the wants of her country are. A foreign policy which she will have now to make one rapidly - or get one invented for her.

Philip Howard

## For sale: the mind of Richard Burton

The proper study of mankind is man. I predict that there will be a gratifyingly human uproar about the decision by the Royal Anthropological Institute to sell Sir Richard Burton's library, which is about to be announced. The old buccaneer would have enjoyed it, having always played a part in the turbulent politics of the Ethnological Society and its successors. When leading the seceding Anthropological Society, he gave as his reason: "The deadly shade of respectability, the trail of the slow-worm, is over them all."

As you would expect, Burton's Library is an eclectic and exotic and in parts erotic, collection, finding on its shelves not just for the Arabian classics, but also for *The Book of Noodles*, and *Why Women Cannot be Turned into Men* by Janus, published by Blackwood in 1872. Many of the books are heavily annotated by Burton, and some of them are in themselves valuable, for example, two copies of his *Stone Walk*, extensively annotated and corrected.

The library would, of course, have been even more interesting and valuable, if Lady Burton, the devoted and famous Isabel Arundell, had not destroyed his private journals at his death, exclaiming indignantly: "Let the world rain fire and brimstone on me." We have to thank her, at any rate, for the remarkable Arab text of stone and marble that she built for his mausoleum at Morlake.

It is sad that Burton's books are up for sale. But they are peripheral to the main concerns of the Anthropological Society, and expensive to maintain and insure. I understand that they will be sold only to a purchaser who will keep the library intact and accessible to scholars. The whispers that I hear in the jungle and wadis of the savage anthropological world is that an export licence will be needed for the sale. It is certainly true that the collection is of more literary than anthropological interest these days. Books are a reflection of the

owner's mind: a sobering thought for hacks, who tend to be careless magpies of books. What on earth would anybody make of Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book* sitting between *Orlando Furioso* and *Astrology for Cats*? There was a reason for the collocation, though I have forgotten it.

Burton's books are a vivid reflection of the man who collected them: the romanticism, the grim humour, the reckless insubordination of opinion. It is an agreeable irony that the Victorian Age, with those famous Victorian values, should have made a best-seller of Burton's most famous work, *The Thousand and One Nights*, which, at a critical said, "reveals a profound acquaintance with the vocabulary and customs of the Muslims, as well as their most secret and most disgusting habits." Burton was an Elizabethan born out of his time: Elizabeth, not Victoria, should have been his queen.

Burton himself was aware of the incongruity of his success: I struggled for 47 years, I distinguished myself in every way I possibly could. I never had a compliment nor a "Thank you" nor a single farthing. I translated a doubtful book in my old age, and I immediately made 16,000 guineas. Now that I know the tastes of England, we need never be without money.

In a curious way he was at the same time a very Victorian genius. It was one of the great ages of adventure. Burton himself was a life-long employee of the state. It was his own Commander-in-Chief, General C. J. Napier, who commissioned Burton to investigate the pederast brothers of Karachi, so firing his life-long interest in oriental erotica, which eventually made him rich. I am sorry that the mad boy's library is being sold, wish that I had the money to buy it and the space to put it. At least the surviving image of that extraordinary mind is not going to be broken up.





P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

## IT TOOK A RIOT

Once, in the days following the Toxteth riots less than two years ago, the streets of Liverpool 8 were thick with ministers of the Crown. But how chimerical was that vision of permanent secretaries and secretaries of state on Upper Parliament Street and by the Mersey docks. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the new Secretary of State for the Environment, now hesitates over whether there is even to be a ministerial brief for Merseyside; he is shortly to discuss the matter with Mrs Thatcher.

Policy for the inner areas is to be played down. Mr Jenkin has indicated that Lime Street station will see him infrequently. Housing minister Mr Ian Gow, MP for sunny Eastbourne, is unlikely to be held by the shadow of those cavernous estates of Knowsley and Croxteth. That leaves the junior ministers. Those in the Department of the Environment are some of the Government's brightest, but very wet. Merseyside and Manchester and inner Birmingham must not be administratively defined as social problems for wets. The legacy of Michael Heseltine is above all this: the physical and social decay of the inner areas is as much a hard challenge for the

corporate private economy as for liberal-minded ministers.

Mr Jenkin might usefully call up the paper, "It Took a Riot", written by Mr Heseltine just after the riots. The agenda for action public and private, set out in that paper is nowhere near completion. Its case for spirited government involvement in reconstruction of the inner cities has been rebutted in no Think Tank exercise or manifesto draft. During his career Mr Heseltine has evinced tendencies towards a now unfashionable "corporatism", which is harmless in his present position at Defence. This led him after Toxteth into a muscular critique of the failures of the capitalist economy in the older urban areas and an unequivocal statement of the need for state intervention (not least in putting its own house in order - literally on those huge and neglected public housing estates.) His points still stand.

"Benign neglect", towards which Mr Jenkin may now be tempted, is a risky policy. The social and economic conditions which assisted those outbreaks two years ago are evidently still in place. And not only in Liverpool and Brixton. There are no sociological laws which say that the good showing made by

the Conservatives in Birmingham in the election confers an immunity against urban tension and, possibly future disorder in the West Midlands in the absence of economic amelioration.

The fact is that the Environment Department has built an apparatus, possibly too bureaucratic, possibly too small, on Heseltine lines for answering some of the problems of the inner city areas. There are some successes - in the refurbishment of public housing, "enveloping" private housing, partnership arrangements with city authorities and the involvement of corporate finance through the building societies and entrepreneurs such as Sir Lawrie Barrett. There are conspicuous failures: in making inner city areas an attractive locale for private commercial and industrial investment, in the web-like complexity of finance for city government. But the effort begun by Mr Heseltine remains worthwhile and needs political leadership from the top table. The failure to make a ministerial appointment with some specific reference either to Merseyside or the inner cities would be a short-sighted step which Mrs Thatcher and her ministers might come to regret.

## ANDROPOV'S UNEASY CROWN

What changes will ensue in the USSR, now that the leader of the Soviet Communist Party has become President? For Mr Andropov the title is not in itself important: the late Leonid Brezhnev performed many of the functions of head of state for years before ousting the incumbent and assuming the Presidency. Diplomatic protocol is simpler, of course, when the man who wields actual power as head of the party is officially recognized as leader of the state also.

The real importance, however, relates to the matter of Politburo factionalism. Mr Andropov's chief rival in the ruling body, Konstantin Chernenko, made the keynote speech at the party Central Committee plenum earlier this week, and yesterday warmly proposed Mr Andropov as the sole candidate for the presidency. But this does not mean, as he claimed, that "complete unity" had been achieved in the leadership, nor that the problems facing the USSR can be tackled more effectively.

Mr Andropov now occupies the posts of party General Secretary, Chairman of the Defence Council, and President. But Nikolai Tikhonov has not been replaced as Prime Minister, although he is seventy-eight and a Brezhnev appointee. Nor has the numerical strength of the Politburo, depleted by deaths and other departures, been substantially increased by the appointment of Andropov supporters.

There are still only eleven full members of the top body, although Vitaly Vorotnikov, a former ambassador to Cuba whose career linked him with Mr Andropov, joined the seven non-voting candidate members. To cope with mounting problems in domestic and foreign policy, the Politburo needs an influx of younger blood, but Mr Andropov has not been strong enough to introduce the men he wants against the opposition of other members.

The most significant promotion was that of Grigory Rontanov, the Leningrad party leader, who moves to a key post in the party secretariat while

remaining a full member of the Politburo. Both Andropov and Chernenko are old men; reports of their ill-health are possibly exaggerated, and in the conditions of secrecy surrounding the personal lives of the Soviet leaders, are likely to be confirmed only by their deaths. But the sickness of both could be the explanation for the uneasy truce which now appears to prevail in the Kremlin.

The Soviet political system needs continuity and firm leadership to avoid disintegration. On the departure of either of the two chief leaders, the other could ensure that business carried on as usual while a younger man prepared to assume power. There is still no constitutional means of selecting the top man in the USSR, and Politburo wheeling and dealing takes time. This latest promotion means that apart from Andropov and Chernenko, there are now two younger men who are members of both Politburo and secretariat: Mikhail Gorbachev, who is fifty-two, and Grigory Romanov, who is sixty.

For almost five years Mr Gorbachev has had overall charge of Soviet agriculture - a notoriously difficult area in which there has been little improvement - but now he has expanded his responsibilities to cover the economy as a whole, and his recent visit to Canada saw him successfully filling an important role in promoting Soviet foreign policy. Mr Romanov has yet to prove himself in his secretariat post; in Leningrad he was known more for his living than for his ability in economic management, but his record compares well with that of other local leaders.

Another Politburo member, Geidar Aliev, also sixty, shares with Mr Andropov a KGB background and was brought to Moscow from Azerbaijan last November shortly after his colleague succeeded Mr Brezhnev. As a First Deputy Prime Minister he will no doubt hope to replace the present aged incumbent, being younger than the other First Deputy, seventy-four year old Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

## POOR OLD PINOCHET

General Augusto Pinochet has been in power for nearly a decade and his government has declared that it will only return Chile to democratic rule, by stages, between 1989 and 1997. Is that calendar still believable, in the face of growing discontent? For some time it has been clear that the economic model of the "Chicago boys" has failed - undone by excessive dogmatism and by world recession. Chile has not attracted foreign investment, has failed in ambitious schemes of privatization and has contracted what is proportionately one of the highest foreign debts in the world. The government's policies have failed to generate employment or to arrest general industrial and agricultural decline, and nobody has much interest in sheltering this small and vulnerable economy.

The political consequences are now appearing. General Pinochet's main achievement has always been the restoration of order after the chaos of Salvador Allende's *Unidad Popular*, and this gave him at least a negative popularity that critics and exiles

under-estimated. Too many people demonstrating in the streets can diminish and destroy that asset, and the organizers of the monthly "days of protest" - last Tuesday's was the second - pose him the most serious threat he has yet faced. The protest was organized by the trades unions, but discontent has also increased in Chile's wide middle-class, and political opposition has become more visible, vocal and united.

It is not surprising that General Pinochet has threatened to "crack down" if necessary whatever the cost, but that will not solve his problems. His backing for the formation of a pro-government *movimiento* announced at the end of last month, revives the scheme he has twice rejected in the past and which is opposed by many of his erstwhile supporters. It is usually the case with such movements that they are best formed before they are needed, not after. The General, hitherto Latin America's most hermetic ruler, has also been making other populist gestures of his own. He is convinced that he enjoys at

least the passive support of an overwhelming majority of his countrymen, as well as the backing of the last Prussian-modelled army left in the world. He has previously mastered without difficulty any military dissidents.

What he has not got is a policy. Certainly some of the economic malaise has international causes, but blaming it on that alone is as unconvincing as laying the demonstrations at the door of Soviet conspiracy. Just "cracking down" will further isolate his government internationally and though he has himself a proven capacity for enduring isolation, this may deepen his economic difficulties. The conviction may grow general that there can be no solution to economic difficulties without political change. In times of austerity, politics is at least something a poor country can afford. Ten years is a long deprivation. General Pinochet has no "malvinas" to hand, and will not restore his popularity by buying a second-hand aircraft carrier, even one that has seen action against Argentina.

## Democratic ways with Labour

From Lord McIntosh  
Sir, What price Labour Party democracy now?

To widen the franchise for leadership elections, here are the union barons, right and left, calmly disposing of millions of electoral college votes, without even a gesture of consulting ordinary union members who pay the political levy.

And how many constituency Labour parties will seek the views of rank-and-file members, instead of arrogating the choice to the cabals of "activists"?

The first candidate for the leadership of the Labour Party to denounce these Tammany Hall manoeuvres will deserve the support of all democratic socialists. Yours faithfully, ANDREW MCINTOSH, House of Lords, June 15.

## Test-tube babies

From the Bishop of Middlesbrough  
Sir, With reference to your correspondent's report (June 2) of the Catholic Social Welfare Commission's submission to the Warnock committee on *in vitro* fertilization I wish to make the following points:

1. The Warnock committee has explicitly excluded discussion of abortion and contraception from its agenda.  
2. The submission of the Social Welfare Commission contains the following passage: "We do not accept abortion. However, as required by the committee, we refrain from discussion of abortion, but note the abortive consequences following diagnosis of defects in cloned embryos, etc. (para. 32)."

In paragraph 43 of its submission the Social Welfare Commission explicitly disavows itself from the 1967 Abortion Act. (I must that the above will make clear the commission's attitude to abortion in general and the 1967 Act in particular.) Yours faithfully, AUGUSTINE HARRIS, Episcopal President, Social Welfare Commission, Bishop's House, 16 Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, June 2.

**Railway closure**  
From Mr R. E. Field  
Sir, Has anyone's reason succumbed to Mr Geoffrey Sampson's strange logic (June 7) that it would be preferable to close the Settle-to-Carlisle railway than to replace the beautiful, though irreparable, viaduct at Ribbleshead with a modern structure? If so, it should be pointed out that neither Mr Sampson nor anyone else should be complacent about their chances of enjoying the prospect of that noble viaduct as a romantic ruin. For Ribbleshead viaduct is likely to be demolished; indeed, walkers beneath it have for years been warned about the danger of falling masonry.

Building a new viaduct would, of course, be a marvellous project. It would ensure the retention of a major diversionary route from the Midlands to the North and it would help to lessen the problem of unemployment. Everything made by man sooner or later requires replacement and the accustomed vision requires a little adjustment. Yours faithfully, R. E. FIELD, 47 Leaside Crescent, Temple Fortune, NW11, June 2.

**Rampant rape**  
From Mrs Stella Herbert  
Sir, Even if rape growers are as scrupulous in the use of spraying as Mr Michael Bunbury argues (June 13) the spread of the crop could well precipitate a decrease in beekeeping. Rape honey crystallises rapidly in the comb, sometimes within 24 hours, and is therefore very difficult to extract.

The beekeeper might consider the extra trouble to be worthwhile if the end product were of decent quality, but rape honey has the appearance, consistency and flavour of fondant icing. As one beekeeper said to me: "The only thing to do with rape honey is sell it and get out of the country fast." Yours faithfully, STELLA HERBERT, 23 Cedar Drive, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, June 13.

## As she spoke

From Mr Nigel Warwick  
Sir, The "examination in colloquial French" referred to by Dr Harte (June 3) is presumably the Advanced-level French Syllabus B examination introduced by this board in the June, 1982, examination. The syllabus is designed to provide practical and realistic objectives: far-linguistically orientated pupils and lays special emphasis on the understanding and use of contemporary French, including communication in spoken French.

The entry for this examination is as yet small compared with that for Advanced-level French Syllabus A, but there are certainly state schools in the London area which are following the course leading to this recently introduced new examination. Yours faithfully, NIGEL WARWICK, Assistant Secretary, University of London Entrance and School Examinations Council, The University of London GCE Board, 66-72 Gower Street, WC1, June 13.

**On a clear day**  
From Mr Alan Searle  
Sir, The combined heights of the two highest mountains mentioned by Mr Oliver Barratt (June 7) is 5,525 ft. According to my Whitaker's, the horizon at a height of 5,000 ft, taking refraction into account, is 93 miles, far short of the 150 miles to the mountains of Donegal. Even at 20,000 ft the distance to the horizon is only 186 miles. That would indeed be some refraction which raised Errigal a few thousand feet in the air.

Perhaps Mr Barratt and his friends, quite understandably and wisely, took a few drams of something strong when climbing Beinn Sguilaird in such intense cold, or maybe they were just overwhelmed at the summit by the scenic grandeur all around them. Yours sincerely, ALAN SEARLE, 67 Fitzgerald Road, E11, June 8.

## Seeing justice done

From Mr Paul Drury  
Sir, I trust that the Old Bailey authority has blushed to read Mr Neill Monaghan's letter (June 7) rightly claiming that the famous statue of Justice thereon is not blindfolded. Yet this body has remained blind to the fact that upon the plinth of a monument under their surveillance some wanton hand has inscribed (c. 1974) an "A. DRURY" and "R.A. 1913".

Are others to go on grinning while this splendid statue bears it? Yours faithfully, PAUL DRURY, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

## Economic policy and unemployment

From Mr Charles Williams

Sir, Your leading article of June 13 on economic policy was remarkable for the absence of any comment on the exchange rate. One important factor in determining policy towards interest rates must be the Government's attitude towards sterling.

There may be a temptation, encouraged by your leading article, to allow the pound to further depreciate by pursuing tight fiscal and monetary policies. Surely this would be wrong?

The Conservatives' appeal rested on building upon the recovery that was beginning without sacrificing all that had been achieved in the fight against inflation and not on price stability at all costs. A strong pound may offer a quick route to a nil rate of inflation, but at the cost of stopping recovery in its tracks.

A reduction in interest rates will be most welcome, not least because it should help to take the upward pressure off sterling and thereby assist the international competitiveness of British industry.

There is no need for a fall in interest rates to be accompanied by cuts in public expenditure since cash limits will ensure that spending is kept under control in the financial year as a whole even if it is higher than expected in April, a consequence perhaps of public authorities attempting to reduce their under-spending in the 1982-83 financial year and overshooting at the beginning of the new year.

Yours faithfully, C. A. WILLIAMS, 40 Shandon Road, SW4, June 14.

## From Mr John Pomian

Sir, With the election out of the way we can seriously address ourselves to the problem of unemployment. Dr Elizabeth Halsall (June 7) rightly pointed out that this problem, which basically arises from increased technological productivity, has been successfully solved many times since the Industrial Revolution by reducing hours of work, extending education and providing for retirement, rather than by using all the increase in wealth on higher wages and salaries.

Today, if we are to make any progress we must take a view about our wealth as a society. Can we or can we not afford earlier retirement so as to reduce our workforce? Can we afford more spending on education to improve the quality of our manpower? Can we afford some kind of partial remission of the debts of the Third World to revive the flow of international trade? Such prior answers must be given before we can approach virtually any problem before us.

Though in terms of our productive capacity the answer is yes, if

way to avoid that is to be generous to them at the Geneva talks.

Andropov's offer of counting warheads and including in the count the British and French nuclear missiles seems a reasonable one. It could very well serve as the basis for an agreement.

The implications for the defence of Britain are equally far reaching. The electronic brains of the new weapons will be able to recognize enemy tanks and aeroplanes. A conventional attack by 10,000 tanks could be stopped by 10,000 warheads carrying conventional explosives.

It might very well be expensive to perfect such weapons systems but it seems money much better spent than to increase the accuracy of the nuclear deterrent (higher accuracy would not, anyway, increase the deterrent value) by introducing Trident.

Yours faithfully, L. SOLYMAR, Brasenose College, Oxford, June 1.

## On a clear day

From Mr Alan Searle  
Sir, On the north-west edge of the Kielder Forest rises Peel Fell (1,975 ft) - the highest point in the Border range south of the Coquet. Its summit is remarkable for the extent of its view. To the west are the hills of Galloway and to the south-west the hills of the Lakes. Between the two on a clear day may be seen a glint of the waters of the Solway Firth.

To the east, across the great expanse of Northumberland, the North Sea is said to be visible on a clear day.

This being so Peel Fell is another of the very few points in England where one has a view across the Kingdom from sea to sea. Yours faithfully, JOHN H. W. FISHER, Greenacres, Church Lane, Rockhampton, Berkeley, Gloucestershire, June 9.

## Clock symphony

From Mr A. J. Ramage-Gibson  
Sir, I wonder if it has occurred to Mr Deacon (June 7) that many users of audible watches do so for important medical reasons?

Sufferers from Parkinson's disease, diabetes and other afflictions frequently require strict time medication. Are they to be denied access to public concerts and the like?

The real menace lies in the increasing unawareness and intolerance in our society towards the less fortunate amongst us.

Yours sincerely, A. J. RAMAGE-GIBSON, The Fiddle, Temple, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, June 8.

## Debarred from parish churches

From Lord Norwich  
Sir, As part of my research for the guide on which I am at present engaged to the best of English architecture, I have done my best, over the past five or six years, to visit every outstanding parish church in the country, south of a line drawn from Gloucester to the Wash.

About half of these I have found open; for another quarter I have been able - though sometimes only after considerable difficulty - to find the key at the vicarage or some nearby house. But the sad fact is that about one church in four I have had to abandon altogether, having found it impenetrable.

Out of some 600 visits there has, I am glad to say, been one church only which fell into none of the above categories: an outstandingly interesting church in Surrey whose vicar, run to earth in his study a hundred yards away, refused outright either to lend me the key or to take me to the church himself.

While the general accessibility of parish churches depends, in my experience, very much on the particular diocese, I fully understand that in many areas - and particularly in the towns - the incidence of robbery and vandalism makes it impossible to keep a church open throughout the day. Would it, however, be too much to ask that, for the benefit of those who love parish churches for their own sake as well as for those desirous of private prayer or meditation, when a church is closed there should always be a notice in the porch, giving the address where the key can be obtained?

On such occasions I see no reason why the visitor should not be asked to pay a deposit or, indeed, a small fee to church funds.

And while we are on the subject, why cannot appropriate churches









# 'Our support is disappearing under the waves'

Chairman, House of Fraser, June 3rd 1983

**On June 30th, please vote for a demerger of Harrods. All the plans of the board require that the continuing success of Harrods must fund the rest of the House of Fraser group.**

Lord Fraser, who bought Harrods in 1959, kept it scrupulously separate during his chairmanship, a policy followed by Sir Hugh and his board.

In 1977, Lornrho took a major shareholding in the House of Fraser. We have £100 million invested in the store group. Since 1980, we have become more critical of the return on investment, and most doubtful of the capital expenditure programme of the board. About 30% of the capital they invest, is, after all, ours.

We are now proposing that Harrods should become an entirely independent company, in the belief that the present policy of using its profits and prospects to fund the capital programme is not in the best interests of the group. On June 30th, after every conceivable delay, House of Fraser will allow a simple ordinary resolution to be put to the vote.

In our six years as shareholders, we have put three resolutions to the vote. In 1980, a small increase in the dividend was suggested and rejected.

Dividends have subsequently increased against lower profits. In 1981, we opposed the sale and leaseback of the freehold Oxford Street property of D. H. Evans. Today, the performance of D. H. Evans is saddled with inescapable obligations for 123 years, as a result of the leaseback. Now we hope to have your support and understanding for the proposal to amend the trading strategy to secure improved profits on your investment in the group.

It is our opinion that the success of this resolution will further strengthen the share price, which our presence as a shareholder has long enhanced and supported.

**There is no unusual or legal obstacle to the demerger of Harrods. Concern at the slipping level of support prompted the chairman of House of Fraser to make his remarks and to introduce a special technical resolution. We believe that the strength of a straightforward ordinary resolution passed by the shareholders cannot be diminished, and we ask you to vote accordingly.**

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...the ...

**ISSUE OVERSUB-**  
**SCRIBED:** Malaysia's £50m  
-og bond issue has been  
-ubscribed. Applications  
-bout £66m were received  
-the five-year loan stock.  
Applications up to  
000 will be allowed in full  
-pplications above that will  
-t 5 per cent. The stock was  
-t to give an issue yield of  
-er cent.

## Whiteb



**Mr Haslam: invaluable international experience.**

agreement challenge and by September had become chairman of Tate & Lyle.

Imports totalled an adjusted \$58.3bn in the first quarter compared with \$59.7bn in the fourth quarter.

Giving details at the club's White Hart Lane ground, Mr Douglas Alexiou, newly appointed chairman, and son-in-law of Mr Sidney Whale, former club chairman, said the main aim of the directors was to eliminate the club's dependence on borrowings.

**Air UK remains vulnerable to changes in Government legislation on short haul airlines.**

● Revised official figures show that industrial investment was little changed between the final quarter of last year and the first quarter this year, after earlier estimates had suggested a 0.5

## unches first

Eurodollar floating rate notes are negotiable securities on which the rate of interest is fixed by reference to prevailing Eurodollar interest rates.

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Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the grant of permission for the whole of the issued share capital of CPU Computers PLC to be dealt in the Unlisted Securities Market. It is emphasised that no application has been made for these securities to be admitted to listing.

**CPU Computers PLC, which has its headquarters in Woking, Surrey, distributes computer peripherals in the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany and manufactures micro-computer systems.**

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## APPOINTMENTS

## Chairman named at Britvic

Mr Michael Jackman has been appointed chairman of Britvic after the retirement of Mr George Inman. Mr Jackman, who is chairman of Shawcross, Vine Products & Whitways, is also a director of Allied-Lyons and many other subsidiary companies. Mr Eric Colwell has been appointed deputy chairman of Britvic. He is managing director of Victoria Wine Company and a director of Allied-Lyons.

Sir Sidney Eburne joins the board of Peachey Property Corporation as a non-executive director from July 1.

Mr Brian Sweetland, solicitor and manager of the legal department, is also to take over as secretary of Friends' Provident Life Office.

Mr David Morgan, currently marketing director, becomes managing director of Avon Tin Printers, Bristol.

Mr Flinn McIlennan has been appointed managing director of Elopak, Stevenage.

Mr Gordon McLellan is the new managing director of Mardon Composites - Whitehaven. He succeeds Mr John Adams who has retired.

Mr Trevor Heavens has been appointed manager at National Westminster Bank's Finance branch. He succeeds Mr R. P. M. Phillips who shortly finishes his tour of duty.

Mr Paul Crowe, deputy managing director of Odhams Printers, has been elected a BPPC main board director and appointed managing director of the BPPC wholly-owned subsidiary, the British Newspaper Printing Corporation.

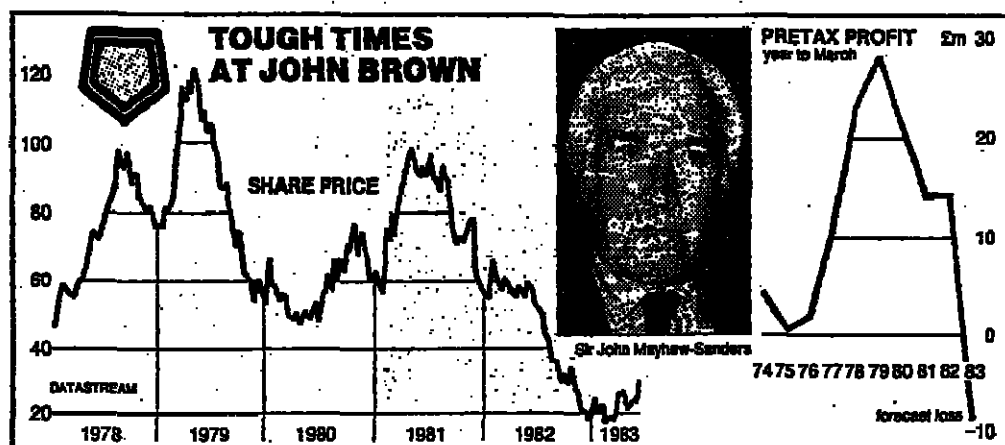
Mr Michael Noakes, has become managing director of Cimex.

Mr L. R. Fortune, a main board director, has been appointed managing director of BCL (British Cellophane) in charge of their converter companies in Europe and Nigeria. He also has development responsibilities for the Middle East, Northern Africa and North America.

Mr Tom Elbert, previously assistant general manager, has been appointed managing director of Comex Houlder Diving, Aberdeen, succeeding Mr Gilles Bellamy who is taking up new responsibilities in the Comex Group.

A corporate rethink could revive one of British industry's proudest names

## Change due at stricken John Brown



There was a certain inevitability about the current problems and the embarrassing forced restructuring of John Brown. Many of the great prewar names of British industry have either gone bust, such as BSA and Stone-Platt, or been forced to take drastic decisions to survive like Turner & Newall and hopefully prosper like Vickers. This greatest of names from the era of Britain's industrial might was a candidate for anyone's list of proud traditional companies vulnerable to the slump, the new harsh industrial realism, the upsets created by high interest rates and the huge unpredictable swings in currencies.

John Brown has traditionally prospered on exports, of machine tools, turbines and plant contracting. More recently, it has extensively bought companies in the US in a widely fluctuating dollar currency. And like many of the proud names in British engineering, its businesses - from North Sea plant to textile machinery - depend on world-wide industrial investment that has proved the greatest victim of the slump.

After years of fluctuating fortunes, John Brown reached rock bottom when it announced pretax losses of £9m and write-offs of £17m for the half-year to last September and forecast that the full year to March would produce a similar loss to set against last year's £14m profit. This undid the group's balance sheet, its traditional strength.

Suddenly, debt more than matched the group's net worth, shown as £114m in its latest 1981-82 accounts. That is a warning to any company, particularly one that has raised £40m from the City in new shares in the past five years and antagonized both its big shareholders and stockbrokers within the square mile.

Now it is negotiating to sell Hawker Siddeley a majority stake in John Brown Engineering, the gas turbine division centred on its old Clydebank shipyard and one of its two best businesses, to shore itself up.

The man at the centre of these negotiations is Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, John Brown's dominating chairman and chief executive.

Sir John will resolve the immediate debt problems of this shrinking pillar of British Engineering if he successfully

negotiated a sale of the turbine division, JBE made £1.8m profit on £94m sales in 1981-82 but has suffered amid the time-consuming political wrangling over its contracts on the Siberian gas pipeline. Hawker wants to maintain a John Brown connection because of the goodwill earned in the Eastern block.

Even the sale of a substantial majority could net John Brown £30m or more, against its £40m stock market value.

But it is already clear that, if the group remains independent at all, the consequences of recent failures will reverberate round the boardroom. A company that has already changed its shape several times over a proud 150-year history will face another through going rethink about its future.

The original John Brown started making Springs in Sheffield, moved into steel and the forefront of railway and shipbuilding development. After buying the Clydebank shipyard in 1899, it made itself the top name in passenger liners right down to the QE2 and the era of shipyard mergers that ended in nationalisation. Most of its history was dominated by the family of Lord Abercromby, whose father and grandfather preceded his own 76-year occupancy of the chair until 1978.

Mayhew-Sanders is an accountant by family tradition, engineer by education and was a management consultant before joining John Brown, becoming chief executive eight years ago. He inherited a London-run business centred on the unusually successful Wickman machine tool companies, old-style general engineering, the turbine business and an erratic

but highly regarded international plant contracting group that accounts for more than a third of turnover and usually the lion's share of profit.

The new chairman set about a further round of diversification and expansion, particularly by buying companies in the US. It is hard to tell whether John Brown would have been better or worse off without this. The original machine tool business lost about £4m in 1981-82 and accounts for many of the write-offs of the past three years. But Mayhew-Sanders' initiatives have produced new problems.

He bought Crawford & Russell, a complementary process engineer for £25m, Lecona, machinery maker to the textile industry for \$80m, and

while adding little to its short-term trading strengths. But Mayhew-Sanders' unpopularity in the City has more parochial causes. In the autumn of 1981, John Brown raised £24m by a rights issue that, due to the vagaries of the stock market, was left with underwriters.

Just two months later, rights issue optimism was transformed by a "dramatic further worsening" in machine tools, producing an internal stock market rumour over dealings (John Brown was acquired) and lasting animosity in the City.

This was compounded when talk of much lower profits last July ended up in the dramatic losses announced in January.

This ire attaches as much to Sir John Mayhew-Sanders himself as to any objective facts, because he has conducted, as City men say, an "aggressive and intelligent" defence of himself and his company when the money men thought penitence was more in order.

The result has been that analysts have turned their most critical spotlight on John Brown and its future. Apart from the process contracting and turbine sides, "the rest is a nightmare" says one widely followed engineering specialist. "I would like to see John Brown off my list, taken over and broken up."

Behind the scenes, more cautious City institutions have taken a subtler approach to what they see as long-term management problems - not a condemnation of Sir John, so much as modern dislike of a board where a single all-powerful executive presided over a group of often aging outsiders.

Sir John Cuckney, saviour of many a lost cause, was brought

in as a vigorous non-executive director and now deputy chairman. Two executive directors, from process contracting and the US, joined the main board last August.

They are likely to take a more balanced view of the future. After all, under Sir John Mayhew-Sanders' leadership, profits rose from less than £1m in 1974-75 to about £20m in 1977-78 before the slump.

But now there is likely to be a much more down-to-earth approach, with more management changes, more emphasis on profitability and financial strength than size and the final burying of any grandiose pretensions associated with the name John Brown the name Sir John Cuckney could well take a strong role.

The turbine division, though a jewel in the crown, might have proved too much for a company of this size in the long-run. John Brown in now a small outfit in a big league.

Unless a bidder for the whole group emerges - assets outweigh the share price but there are problems to match. John Brown will have to sort out its own machinery and general engineering sections and bank on an improvement in oil business and plant construction.

But long term it looks logical to concentrate its resources on the exciting if vulnerable international process contracting and construction business, a big enough challenge for its own machinery as well as its resources. It has promising ventures in process plant for biotechnology.

The road to prosperity could be long and painful. So could the choice to adopt a new more restricted role. That might not be to the chairman's liking and is therefore no foregone conclusion.

It is no accident that those close to the company point to Sir John Mayhew-Sanders' non-executive role at Dowty and that company's impending need for a new leader. Sir John is still only 51. At the moment, much is in the balance.

Meanwhile, there are some signs that orders are picking up, even in machine tools, and trading could improve sharply. Given a deal with Hawker Siddeley on turbines, the share price could pick up too.

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Graham Searjeant

## Putting the brakes on money supply

The Last Conservative Government came to office determined to control the money supply, but completed its term with monetary aggregates growing well above target. That failure had much to do with too simple-minded an interpretation of monetarism.

Minister's principal mistake was to believe that by cutting the public sector borrowing requirements (PSBR) - the Budget deficits and raising interest rates, the money supply could be controlled. This approach did not work because loan demand became progressively less sensitive to changes in interest rates while reducing the PSBR probably raised bank lending.

The market drop in the sensitivity of bank lending to changes in interest rates owes much to the ever increasing share of personal lending in total loan demand.

The banks have done everything possible to encourage this lending via an aggressive campaign which has been very successful.

Interest rates - as a result of changes in the structure of credit - have now become such a blunt instrument that any given change in loan demand requires a much bigger adjustment of interest rates than used to be the case.

This has led the authorities to place much greater emphasis on overfunding - borrowing more than the actual Budget deficit - to offset directly the impact of bank lending on the money supply.

Since the Bank of England now has the largest loan book of private sector debt of any bank in the world, obtained at a not inconsiderable cost, as it borrows long to lend short - overfunding has gone too far.

Perhaps the main objection to overfunding, however, is that although it makes the money figures appear acceptable in the short run, there is a heavy long-term cost in the slow development of the corporate bond market. Interest rates are higher than they need be and it is cheaper for companies to borrow short.

If the authorities do curtail the amount of overfunding, the obvious temptation is to reduce the amount of funding by having another go at cutting the PSBR - especially as the

PSBR currently looks as if it will breach its target. Great care must be taken, however, in selecting the means to reduce borrowing if the mistakes of fiscal 1980/81 are not to be repeated.

The rise in income taxation (with the failure to index allowances) during fiscal 1980/81 reduced public borrowing but at the cost of exacerbating the bank lending problem as individuals borrowed from the banks to pay the higher tax and thereby protect their standard of living.

The problem remains, however, that it is still much easier to raise direct (indirect taxes are ruled out because of their impact on the RPI) than to cut expenditure: current expenditure is impossible to cut while capital expenditure may have been pruned too much already.

There is one tax which could be raised without too great an impact on loan demand, that is employees' national insurance contributions. The NIC is a regressive tax which hits lower income groups who have a relatively restricted access to bank loans. Perhaps it is more than just a coincidence that Mrs Thatcher emphasised throughout the election campaign that the NIC is not a tax, but an insurance premium paid to a fund which should be self-financing - at present the fund is far from self-sufficient as the Treasury contributes £2.5bn a year.

The restraint of overfunding is certainly a pre-condition for the take-off of the corporate bond market. If Mr Lawson the Chancellor wishes to go to the next general election claiming that the money supply is under control, it will be necessary for the corporate sector to borrow £5-6bn a year from the capital markets rather than from the banks.

Given the role of instruments currently available to him, such an outcome necessitates his acceptance of an overshoot of the monetary targets in the short term, as a means to medium term control.

Mike Osborne

The author is senior economist at Grieson Grant, the stockbrokers.

1982/83	1983/84	1984/85	1985/86	1986/87	1987/88	1988/89	1989/90	1990/91	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30	2030/31	2031/32	2032/33	2033/34	2034/35	2035/36	2036/37	2037/38	2038/39	2039/40	2040/41	2041/42	2042/43	2043/44	2044/45	2045/46	2046/47	2047/48	2048/49	2049/50	2050/51	2051/52	2052/53	2053/54	2054/55	2055/56	2056/57	2057/58	2058/59	2059/60	2060/61	2061/62	2062/63	2063/64	2064/65	2065/66	2066/67	2067/68	2068/69	2069/70	2070/71	2071/72	2072/73	2073/74	2074/75	2075/76	2076/77	2077/78	2078/79	2079/80	2080/81	2081/82	2082/83	2083/84	2084/85	2085/86	2086/87	2087/88	2088/89	2089/90	2090/91	2091/92	2092/93	2093/94	2094/95	2095/96	2096/97	2097/98	2098/99	2099/00	2100/01	2101/02	2102/03	2103/04	2104/05	2105/06	2106/07	2107/08	2108/09	2109/10	2110/11	2111/12	2112/13	2113/14	2114/15	2115/16	2116/17	2117/18	2118/19	2119/20	2120/21	2121/22	2122/23	2123/24	2124/25	2125/26	2126/27	2127/28	2128/29	2129/30	2130/31	2131/32	2132/33	2133/34	2134/35	2135/36	2136/37	2137/38	2138/39	2139/40	2140/41	2141/42	2142/43	2143/44	2144/45	2145/46	2146/47	2147/48	2148/49	2149/50	2150/51	2151/52	2152/53	2153/54	2154/55	2155/56	2156/57	2157/58	2158/59	2159/60	2160/61	2161/62	2162/63	2163/64	2164/65	2165/66	2166/67	2167/68	2168/69	2169/70	2170/71	2171/72	2172/73	2173/74	2174/75	2175/76	2176/77	2177/78	2178/79	2179/80	2180/81	2181/82	2182/83	2183/84	2184/85	2185/86	2186/87	2187/88	2188/89	2189/90	2190/91	2191/92	2192/93	2193/94	2194/95	2195/96	2196/97	2197/98	2198/99	2199/00	2200/01	2201/02	2202/03	2203/04	2204/05	2205/06	2206/07	2207/08	2208/09	2209/10	2210/11	2211/12	2212/13	2213/14	2214/15	2215/16	2216/17	2217/18	2218/19	2219/20	2220/21	2221/22	2222/23	2223/24	2224/25	2225/26	2226/27	2227/28	2228/29	2229/30	2230/31	2231/32	2232/33	2233/34	2234/35	2235/36	2236/37	2237/38	2238/39	2239/40	2240/41	2241/42	2242/43	2243/44	2244/45	2245/46	2246/47	2247/48	2248/49	2249/50	2250/51	2251/52	2252/53	2253/54	2254/55	2255/56	2256/57	2257/58	2258/59	2259/60	2260/61	2261/62	2262/63	2263/64	2264/65	2265/66	2266/67	2267/68	2268/69	2269/70	2270/71	2271/72	2272/73	2273/74	2274/75	2275/76	2276/77	2277/78	2278/79	2279/80	2280/81	2281/82	2282/83	2283/84	2284/85	2285/86	2286/87	2287/88	2288/89	2289/90	2290/91	2291/92	2292/93	2293/94	2294/95	2295/96	2296/97	2297/98	2298/99	2299/00	2300/01	2301/02	2302/03	2303/04	2304/05	2305/06	2306/07	2307/08	2308/09	2309/10	2310/11	2311/12	2312/13	2313/14	2314/15	2315/16	2316/17	2317/18	2318/19	2319/20	2320/21	2321/22	2322/23	2323/24	2324/25	2325/26	2326/27	2327/28	2328/29	2329/30	2330/31	2331/32	2332/33	2333/34	2334/35	2335/36	2336/37	2337/38	2338/39	2339/40	2340/41	2341/42	2342/43	2343/44	2344/45	2345/46	2346/47	2347/48	2348/49	2349/50	2350/51	2351/52	2352/53	2353/54	2354/55	2355/56	2356/57	2357/58	2358/59	2359/60	2360/61	2361/62	2362/63	2363/64	2364/65	2365/66	2366/67	2367/68	2368/69	2369/70	2370/71	2371/72	2372/73	2373/74	2374/75	2375/76	2376/77	2377/78	2378/79	2379/80	2380/81	2381/82	2382/83	2383/84	2384/85	2385/86	2386/87	2387/88	2388/89	2389/90	2390/91	2391/92	2392/93	2393/94	2394/95	2395/96	2396/97	2397/98	2398/99	2399/00	2400/01	2401/02	2402/03	2403/04	2404/05	2405/06	2406/07	2407/08	2408/09	2409/10	2410/11	2411/12	2412/13	2413/14	2414/15	2415/16	2416/17	2417/18	2418/19	2419/20	2420/21	2421/22	2422/23	2423/24	2424/25	2425/26	2426/27	2427/28	2428/29	2429/30	2430/31	2431/32	2432/33	2433/34	2434/35	2435/36	2436/37	2437/38	2438/39	2439/40	2440/41	2441/42	2442/43	2443/44	2444/45	2445/46	2446/47	2447/48	2448/49	2449/50	2450/51	2451/52	2452/53	2453/54	2454/55	2455/56	2456/57	2457/58	2458/59	2459/60	2460/61	2461/62	2462/63	2463/64	2464/65	2465/66	2466/67	2467/68	2468/69	2469/70	2470/71	2471/72	2472/73	2473/74	2474/75	2475/76	2476/77	2477/78	2478/79	2479/80	2480/81	2481/82	2482/83	2483/84	2484/85	2485/86	2486/87	2487/88	2488/89	2489/90	2490/91	2491/92	2492/93	2493/94	2494/95	2495/96	2496/97	2497/98	2498/99	2499/00	2500/01	2501/02	2502/03	2503/04	2504/05	2505/06	2506/07	2507/08	2508/09	2509/10	2510/11	2511/12	2512/13	2513/14	2514/15	2515/16	2516/17	2517/18	2518/19	2519/20	2520/21	2521/22	2522/23	2523/24	2524/25	2525/26	2526/27	2527/28	2528/29	2529/30	2530/31	2531/32	2532/33	2533/34	2534/35	2535/36	2536/37	2537/38	2538/39	2539/40	2540/41	2541/42	2542/43	2543/44	2544/45	2545/46	2546/47	2547/48	2548/49	2549/50	2550/51	2551/52	2552/53	2553/54	2554/55	2555/56	2556/57	2557/58	2558/59	2559/60	2560/61	2561/62	2562/63	2563/64	2564/65	2565/66	2566/67	2567/68	2568/69	2569/70	2570/71	2571/72	2572/73	2573/74	2574/75	2575/76	2576/77	2577/78	2578/79	2579/80	2580/81	2581/82	2582/83	2583/84	2584/85	2585/86	2586/87	2587/88	2588/89	2589/90	2590/91	2591/92	2592/93	2593/94	2594/95	2595/96	2596/97	2597/98	2598/99	2599/00	2600/01	2601/02	2602/03	2603/04	2604/05	2605/06	2606/07	2607/08	2608/09	2609/10	2610/11	2611/12	2612/13	2613/14	2614/15	2615/16	2616/17	2617/18	2618/19	2619/20	2620/21	2621/22	2622/23	2623/24	2624/25	2625/26	2626/27	2627/28	2628/29	2629/30	2630/31	2631/32	2632/33	2633/34	2634/35	2635/36	2636/37	2637/38	2638/39	2639/40	2640/41	2641/42	2642/43	2643/44	2644/45	2645/46	2646/47	2647/48	2648/49	2649/50	2650/51	2651/52	2652/53	2653/54	2654/55	2655/56	2656/57	2657/58	2658/59	2659/60	2660/61	2661/62	2662/63	2663/64	2664/65	2665/66	2666/67	2667/68	2668/69	2669/70	2670/71	2671/72	2672/73	2673/74	2674/75	2675/76	2676/77	2677/78	2678/79	2679/80	2680/81	2681/82	2682/83	2683/84	2684/85	2685/86	2686/87	2687/88	2688/89	2689/90	2690/91	2691/92	2692/93	2693/94	2694/95	2695/96	2696/97	2697/98	2698/99	2699/00	2700/01	2701/02	2702/03	2703/04	2704/05	2705/06	2706/07	2707/08	2708/09	2709/10	2710/11	2711/12	2712/13	2713/14	2714/15	2715/16	2716/17	2717/18	2718/19	2719/20	2720/21	2721/22	2722/23	2723/24	2724/25	2725/26	2726/27	2727/28	2728/29	2729/30	2730/31	2731/32	2732/33	2733/34	2734/35	2735/36	2736/37	2737/38	2738/39	2739/40	2740/41	2741/42	2742/43	2743/44	2744/45	2745/46	2746/47	2747/48	2748/49	2749/50	2750/51	2751/52	2752/53	2753/54	2754/55	2755/56	2756/57	2757/58	2758/59	2759/60	2760/61	2761/62	2762/63	2763/64	2764/65	2765/66	2766/67	2767/68	2768/69	2769/70	2770/71	2771/72	2772/73	2773/74	2774/75	2775/76	2776/77	2777/78	2778/79	2779/80	2780/81	2781/82	2782/83	2783/84	2784/85	2785/86	2786/87	2787/88	2788/89	2789/90	2790/91	2791/92	2792/93	2793/94	2794/95	2795/96	2796/97	2797/98	2798/99	2799/00	2800/01	2801/02	2802/03	2803/04	2804/05	2805/06	2806/07	2807/08	2808/09	2809/10	2810/11	2811/12	2812/13	2813/14	2814/15	2815/16	2816/17	2817/18	2818/19	2819/20	2820/21	2821/22	2822/23	2823/24	2824/25	2825/26	2826/27	2827/28	2828/29	2829/30	2830/31	2831/32	2832/33	2833/34	2834/35	2835/36	2836/37	2837/38	2838/39	2839/40	2840/41	2841/42	2842/43	2843/44	2844/45	2845/46	2846/47	2847/48	2848/49	2849/50	2850/51	2851/52	2852/53	2853/54	2854/55	2855/56	2856/57	2857/58	2858/59	2859/60	2860/61	2861/62	2862/63	2863/64	2864/65	2865/66	2866/67	2867/68	2868/69	2869/70	2870/71	2871/72	2872/73	2873/74	2874/75	2875/76	2876/77	2877/78	2878/79	2879/80	2880/81	2881/82	2882/83	2883/84	2884/85	2885/86	2886/87	2887/88	2888/89	2889/90	2890/91	2891/92	2892/93	2893/94	2894/95	2895/96	2896/97	2897/98	2898/99	2899/00	2900/01	2901/02	2902/03	2903/04	2904/05	2905/06	2906/07	2907/08	2908/09	2909/10	2910/11	2911/12	2912/13	2913/14	2914/15	2915/16	2916/17	2917/18	2918/19	2919/20	2920/21	2921/22	2922/23	2923/24	2924/25	2925/26	2926/27	2927/28	2928/29	2929/30	2930/31	2931/32	2932/33	2933/34	2934/35	2935/36	2936/37	2937/38	2938/39	2939/40	2940/41	2941/42	2942/43	2943/44	2944/45	2945/46	2946/47	2947/48	2948/49	2949/50	2950/51	2951/52	2952/53	2953/54	2954/55	2955/56	2956/57	2957/58	2958/59	2959/60	2960/61	2961/62	2962/63	2963/64	2964/65	2965/66	2966/67	2967/68	2968/69	2969/70	2970/71	2971/72	2972/73	2973/74	2974/75	2975/76	2976/77	2977/78	2978/79	2979/80	2980/81	2981/82	2982/83	2983/84	2984/85	2985/86	2986/87	2987/88	2988/89	2989/90	2990/91	2991/92	2992/93	2993/94	2994/95	2995/96	2996/97	2997/98	2998/99	2999/00	3000/01	3001/02	3002/03	3003/04	3004/05	3005/06	3006/07	3007/08	3008/09	3009/10	3010/11	3011/12	3012/13	3013/1
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# Fearless Lad can speed to rare double

By Michael Phillips, Racing Correspondent

Fearless Lad has a good chance of becoming the first horse to win the King's Stand Stakes twice since Gold Bridge brought off the elusive double at Royal Ascot way back in 1933 and 1934.

Twelve months ago Fearless won this famous sprint by beating Chellington Park on equal terms. In the meantime he has shown improvement by giving the same horse 9 lb and a beating at Laydock, followed by a stone and a beating at Sandown.

The only occasion that Fearless has been defeated this season was in the Palace House Stakes at Newmarket on 2,000 Guineas Day. Yet he lost to a colt in defeat that day as he was attempting to give 12 lb more than the weight for age to the three-year-old On Stage. Going down by two and a half lengths on those terms to a smart colt was anything but disgrace.

Krayan, who finished third at Laydock, is held by Fearless Lad on On Stage and so too is the filly French challenger Kind Music who finished third at Laydock and Fearless lad in the Prix de l'Abbaye at Longchamp last autumn.

With Sobriety in the field today's race is bound to be run at a blistering gallop from the word go because the loves to try to unnerve his rivals off his feet. He is more often than not last car but was beaten the only time that she contested a race of his nature. On a line through five Indian King and Sobriety in the Palace Stakes - the race in which he held on from Fearless Lad to win.

Salieri reverts to sprinting after failing to last out several weeks in the Free Handicap. He will relish the firm ground at so too will Fearless Lad.

Electric, my selection for the farwick Stakes, is another who has put up his best performances on fast ground. My selection for the farwick Stakes, is another who has put up his best performances on fast ground. My selection for the farwick Stakes, is another who has put up his best performances on fast ground.

# Howl of triumph for Little Wolf

By Michael Seely

Class was triumphant at Royal Ascot yesterday. Little Wolf stormed home by five lengths in the Ascot Gold Cup to give Willie Carson and Lord Pearson their first ever triumph in Europe's most important race for stayers.

Sharief Dancer, Sheikh Maktoum al Maktoum's \$3.3m yearling purchase, stamped himself the possible challenger to Tenebris in the Irish Sweepstake Derby with an exhilarating burst of finishing speed in the King Edward VII Stakes and Precocious showed himself to be the best two-year-old trained in this country when easily landing the odds of 11-4 laid on Henry Cecil's colt in the Norfolk Stakes.

The faster going provided the key to the heart warming success. Little Wolf was the best horse in the Gold Cup field, provided that he stayed the distance and it was heavy going that has been responsible for the colt's disappointing displays in last year's French St Leger and in the Yorkshire Cup behind Line Slinger this spring. In sounder conditions last season Little Wolf had won the Jean de Chaudray at Saint-Cloud and the Jockey Club Cup at Newmarket.

Yesterday Little Wolf was always travelling easily on the firm going. Line Slinger made the early running until the French challenger Indian Prince took the lead approaching the straight. But the moment that Carson gave Little Wolf his head the gallop stayer quickly put the issue beyond doubt. Khaymour home strongly to finish a credible second with Indian Prince third. Ore, favourite at 7-4 to give Lester Piggott his 12th Gold Cup triumph, was struggling early in the straight and came fourth.

Surprisingly enough despite the coughing epidemic at West Halesy Hill's horses have never looked in better condition. Like a number of the other horses in the week Little Wolf looked magnificent in the paddock and reflected enormous credit on his outstanding trainer. "He has had such a good season," said Carson, "but of course he had to prove that he stayed the distance. Little Wolf will now be aimed at the Doncaster and Goodwood Cups.

No one has worked harder or more consistently than Little Wolf of racing than Lord Forrester. The Queen's racing manager has always regarded Ascot as his lucky country. His several successes at the royal meeting have included those of Tenebris in the New Stakes and Salieri's Palace Stakes, and of Sangster in the Chesham Stakes and Queen's Vase.



A golden victory for Little Wolf and Willie Carson. (Photograph by Bill Warhurst).

Little Wolf is sired by Grundy and is out of Hiding Place. Unfortunately the only living daughter of the dam had to be destroyed last Saturday after a meteorological balloon's descent had caused a panic at the Highgate Stud.

Although connections will obviously think twice before backing Little Wolf again Khaymour could also be bound for Goodwood. The Aga Khan was not present but his stud manager and representative, Ghislain Drion, said: "Unfortunately I have no comment to make about any aspect of the Shergar affair."

Sharief Dancer's victory was something of a revelation. Walter Swinburn was always exuding confidence in the Northern Dancer colt whose surge of power which swept him into the lead early in the straight clinched the issue in his favour. Swinburn had ridden a well judged race. "The further we went the stronger he felt," said jockey. Both Michael Stoute and his head lad, Andy Andrews, also deserve full marks for judgement. In the spring Sharief Dancer was working every bit as well as Cock Robin in different gallops and both men thought it likely that this well balanced quality colt could turn out to be the best three-year-old in the stable. This opinion was somewhat shaken when Sharief Dancer was beaten by So Tree in Sandown's Easter Cup. "It must have been the heavy going," said Stoute, "as he has continued to work like a really good horse ever since."

The Irish Derby is a possible target for both Sharief Dancer and the second horse, Russian Roulette. John Dunlop was equally delighted with the runner-up who lost his position on the final bend but finished very strongly. "That's more like the horse that he has shown me to be at home, and he clearly appreciates the faster going."

Stoute and Swinburn completed a double when the Aga Khan's Dazari proved too strong for Moon Jester and Tom Okker in the King George V Stakes. Stoute has considered this improving three-year-old to be harshly treated, but on this occasion he was the matchless handicapper, had the last laugh.

It was good to see the careful and skilful Epson trainer Philip Mitchell win the Cork and Orrery Stakes with Sylvan Barbarosa. Connections landed a heavy gamble over the 20-1 winner as Ladbrokes had laid Sylvan Barbarosa to lose £55,000 at 66-1 earlier in the day. And finally, Richard Hannock struck a blow for Marlborough when Head for Height won the Chesham Stakes.

# 'Pits of the world' umpire is given the elbow at Bristol

By Richard Eaton

Edward James, a mature experienced and top-grade umpire, whom John McCrone called an "incomprehensible fool" two years ago and of his decisions "pits of the world", was yesterday dismissed from the West of England championships at Bristol. His competence to work at Wimbledon will be discussed before the championships begin on Monday.

His dismissal was the outcome of his handling of a match in which he made a procedural mistake during a noisy and lengthy row in the second set of the contest in which Hank Pfister, the second seed, won 3-6, 7-5, 10-8, his fellow American, Tom Gullickson, who is unseated.

Pfister had been warned for racket abuse after losing his service in the third game of the second set. At 30-15 in the next game Pfister summoned the grand prix supervisor, Bill Gilmour, after James corrected a linesman's decision, then suggested that the point be replayed, then again suggested that the linesman's decision should stand.

Pfister summoned the supervisor because James, whom he asked to replay the point, had taken the ball into the net. James asked the players to play the point again.

"That is a procedural mistake," Pfister said. "If he did not see it, his decision. How can you play knowing the guy in the chair doesn't know the rules? You shouldn't have umpires in a major tournament who don't know the rules."

Pfister's opinion was supported by Gullickson and later by Gilmour, who said: "The man definitely made a procedural mistake. He won't be working here again in the capacity of an umpire and I will be talking to the stewards about his competence to umpire there." James was not available for comment.

Although Pfister was right, one would have more sympathy for his actions had he not misled the situation to its utmost after a back hand of his seemed to have landed just wide of the line. He questioned the decision because he claimed that it had been made late, the umpire from the crowd and all along he, too, thought the ball had been out.

All this spelt the best match of the week in which Gullickson - the player whom McCrone beat out that Wimbledon two years ago - played his heart out in one of the best performances of his career.

Later the umpire was Brian Teacher, who was beaten 6-3, 6-7, 11-9, by Lloyd Bourne, a qualifier.

# Garrison has a dream

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent

Zina Garrison, aged 19, a budding little product of Houston's public parks tennis programme, has beaten Wimbledon's eighth and sixth seeds in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the singles in the Eastbourne tournament, sponsored by BMW. Hana Mandlikova, runner-up at Wimbledon in 1981, fell to Miss Garrison on Wednesday. Bettina Bunge, who reached the semi-finals at Wimbledon last year, was beaten 6-3, 6-2 yesterday.

Miss Garrison made news in 1982 by beating Miss Bunge and Miss Jausovec in Paris and Evonne Cawley at Wimbledon. On each occasion she was eventually beaten by Martina Navratilova, who will be her next opponent at Eastbourne.

Yesterday, Miss Garrison did everything right and played like a dream. "Every time I came close to getting into the ball she would come up with some great shots," Miss Bunge said later. "She played so well that I couldn't do anything."

Miss Navratilova's 6-2, 6-1 win over Zina Garrison was punctuated by collective sighs of lamentation from a crowd who had expected a better performance from the British No. 1. Miss Durie's returns were good enough to earn her two service breaks, but she did not serve well enough to make a match of it.

"She took my service games apart," Miss Durie said. "Every time I missed a first serve she came in on my second. She's so athletic that it's difficult to get the ball past her at the net. I felt rushed the whole time and couldn't settle down to any rhythm."

There were some close games (one of 24 points), but Miss Navratilova took the match with a 6-2, 6-1.



Miss Garrison: bustling

run of six games that cost only 13 points. I think she felt the pressure from the first game," Miss Navratilova said. "I didn't let her breathe."

Wendy Turnbull's 6-3, 6-4 win over the sometimes desultory Andrea Jaeger meant that the Australian had not lost a set in any of her three matches on grass. Miss Jaeger lacks confidence on grass and yesterday, was sometimes tentative because she had hurt a knee.

Her next opponent will be Tracy Austin, who beat 7-5, 6-4, 6-2, Beth Herr; another in a long line of American women with fair hair and two-twisted backhands. Miss Herr served for the first set at 5-4, but her challenges in the second set were not enough to make a match of it.

Miss Austin raised the level of her concentration and her tennis - which meant that Miss Herr was no longer in quite the same class.

QUARTER-FINALS: Zina Garrison (US) vs Bettina Bunge (FR) 6-2, 6-1; Martina Navratilova (CZ) vs Tracy Austin (US) 6-2, 6-1; Wendy Turnbull (AUS) vs Andrea Jaeger (AUS) 6-3, 6-4; Tracy Austin (US) vs Bettina Bunge (FR) 6-2, 6-1.

# Programme for the final day of Royal Ascot

(Note: Double 3.45, 4.55, Treble 3.5, 4.20, 5.30)

Draw: No advantage.

Television (BBC2) 2.30, 3.5, 3.45 and 4.20 races

2.30 WINDSOR CASTLE STAKES (2-Y-O: £8,882: 5f) (11 runners)

- 101 411 ALL AGED (C) (W. Wainman) J. Wainman 4-0-0 P. Taylor 4
- 102 412 ANDREW (C) (J. Wainman) J. Wainman 4-0-0 P. Taylor 4
- 103 413 ANDREW (C) (J. Wainman) J. Wainman 4-0-0 P. Taylor 4
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- 120 430 ANDREW (C) (J. Wainman) J. Wainman 4-0-0 P. Taylor 4

4.20 KING'S STAND STAKES (Group 1: £24,208: 5f) (16)

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4.55 BRITANNIA HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £9,598: 1m) (28)

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Lendl: a tall, dark horse with hooves of clay trying to walk taller at Wimbledon

# A stranger comes to town looking for his grass roots

A week after he had won Wimbledon in 1973 Jan Kodes, of Czechoslovakia, was back home in Prague presenting trophies at a junior tournament. Stepping forward as the under-14 winner was a comparatively frail boy who a few years later would reveal the talents capable of making him one of the greatest of all champions. It is a potential that has still to be fulfilled.

The eruption of that talent between 1980 and 1982, overwhelming at different times the world's most feared players such as Borg and McEnroe and simultaneously making him a millionaire, could not encompass among a welter of championships any of the four grand slam titles.

Ivan Lendl is 23, by which age Borg had already won three of his five Wimbledon singles. The tall Czechoslovak with the misleadingly impassive expression on court will arrive at the All England Club on Monday comparatively little known to the wider British sporting audience in a game in danger of becoming more publicized, like football, for what some of its gladiators say than the way they play the ball.

It would seem at first appraisal that this year's third seed, accorded that place on the basis of the computer rankings rather than realistic expectation of his success on unfamiliar grass, is as disadvantaged as a conventional Formula One car against the new turbos on a flat, corner-free track.

But Lendl has been putting in some useful lap practice at Queen's this week and, after withdrawing from Wimbledon last year and losing ignominiously in the first round in 1981, he could be about to emerge — and those who cherish some of the old-fashioned concepts like sportsmanship earnestly hope so — as an exciting challenger to the established order of anarctic aggressiveness.

With his deep-set, soulful, dark eyes and occasional shy smile full of gleaming, uneven teeth, Lendl is an essentially private person at the opposite end of the temperamental spectrum from those who, in an expression as tiresome as the behaviour it describes, let it all hang out. He has on occasion expressed his disapproval of those who do and has made it clear that he will not be intimidated by players who blatantly seek to disrupt opponents under the thinly-disguised

diversion of grappling with officialdom.

Can Lendl, who in 1982 alone won a record 106 matches, including seven consecutive wins over McEnroe and \$2m prize-money, who in 1980 helped win the Davis Cup at the age of 20 and in 1981 was the only player to beat Borg twice, finally master the grass court surface? Yesterday, relaxed in jeans and sweater in one of those luxuriously insulated hotels where a night's stay makes it almost cheaper to fly home to America by People's Express, he said:

"I think I'm playing better and better on grass after the Stella Artois tournament and a week's practice at Queen's but I can't really tell you until I get out there on Monday. I've been working at the three strokes which matter most on grass — service, return of serve and volley. We'll see. Last year I withdrew just because I was very tired after Paris. If I worried about what happened two years ago at Wimbledon I really would have a problem!"

Lendl possesses one of the game's most formidable forehands — as good as Hoad's? — and although he has not won as many tournaments this year as last, he considers his game has developed, that his service and volleying are improved.

He sees no particular significance in the fact that he has not yet won a grand slam event, losing to Borg in Paris in 1981 and to Connors at Flushing Meadows last year. He merely recognizes that he has not necessarily played his best tennis in those particular tournaments, that when he lost to Borg he did play his best and that nothing on earth could have altered the result. But Lendl is not one of those who fits the popularly conceived idea of the American sporting attitude, that there is a correlation between success and aggressive self-motivation.

Indeed, Lendl is one of that rare breed among contemporary professionals of all hues, someone who can put his sport into a perspective within the overall frame of his life. He is never happy to lose, he emphasizes, but he can live with himself and the rest of the world when he does. "If people cannot lose with good spirit then they have a problem, because they are certain to lose sometimes, and more often as they get older. It is essential to be able to see the game as being fun as well as your job. It is a game. I have made much



Will Lendl, who has not got fat on grass, show his teeth at Wimbledon?

money but when I finish tennis will perhaps not be any part of my life."

So when he is not playing tennis he goes skiing in the Catskill Mountains, a day's return drive from his adopted home in Greenwich, Connecticut, or he plays golf or football with friends. This broader view of life, he believes and hopes, has an advantage in his tennis.

Nor does he subscribe to the view, put about by some professionals in all sports, that pressure is in direct proportion to the importance of the match. He prefers to define the good players as those who actually respond favourably to pressure and believes that the technical excellence of McEnroe and Connors is their ability "to go for their shots even at five-all in the fifth" — an opinion with just a hint of implied criticism of the more percentage-playing Borg, I thought.

Lendl concedes that McEnroe and Connors on present form will take some stopping, but the sun has been shining at Queen's and practice with Wojtek Fibak — the affable 30-year-old Pole who has been his mentor for several years — has been good. Certainly the grass will be a problem, specially on the outside courts, but he agreeably points out that the bad bounces are the same for everyone and, besides, he says with a smile, "I basically enjoy playing tennis". It is that philosophy which endeared his compatriot, Jaroslav Drobný, the 1954 winner, to Wimbledon crowds. If Lendl begins to play as he can this next fortnight, he will make an appealing alternative to the school to grunt-and-moan.

David Miller

## RUGBY UNION: SIMPLE MISSION OF ALL BLACKS PACK

# Back row key men for Lions

From Don Cameron, Wellington

It will be unfortunate if, as seems likely, Wellington's weather lays a wintry hand on the second international match tomorrow between New Zealand and the British Isles. The Lions, after losing a first international they could have won, have sharpened their claws and confidence over the last three matches and now feel, with every justification, that they can match the All Blacks in some aspects and surpass them in others.

The All Blacks have worked up a very determined mood. Their forwards especially were shaken by the events at Lancaster Park, Christchurch, and have moved through their training in the last two days with forbidding purpose.

So the great hope is that the Wellington weather allows a fair, fast-run match. Unfortunately, rain and an icy southerly wind whipped through Wellington yesterday and there is the prospect of more tomorrow. Such conditions can easily turn a match into a lottery, with so much depending on the luck of the toss and the decision whether

to not to take first use of the wind. Teams prepared to play rugby of high quality are often reduced to scrambling about after kicks which go too far or are hurried back in their faces.

The Lions forwards are confident they can handle the All Blacks in set play and their back row seem poised to be the decisive weapon in their arsenal. They have Campbell to kick goals and control the back play. They have, it must be said, players in running their backs and efficiently, but they have recently become aware of the rich pickings on the blind side and the swiftness with which their wings, especially Carleton, can strike there.

The Lions, too, a steady resolve to win. They are a team still seeking an identity. They know this will come should they win at Athletic Park and square a serve they are good enough to win. They also know that defeat could end the fabric of their tour and make the last month an ordeal.

The key, as mentioned before, lies in their back row. If Paxton,

O'Driscoll and Winterbottom can build on Campbell's probing runs near the scrum and the daring breaks, they will hit the All Blacks where it hurts most.

The All Blacks, in contrast, have a simpler mission. Their main aim will be to confront and possibly overpower the Lions in the tight forward play and thereby remove the Lions' attacking base. Rightly or wrongly, the All Black thinking is that the Lions need some 60 per cent possession with which to give their backs the initiative. If this can be reduced to, say, 40 per cent, then the Lions' backline — not always the healthiest of fruit — will wither on the vine.

It will comfort the All Blacks, too, to have Loderidge and Smith working together at half back. Loderidge, particularly if the weather is bad, is a champion at demanding and getting full power from his pack. Smith will be much more tactically flexible than the tyre, Ian Dunn, was in the first international. Given fair weather, this is a

## FOOTBALL

# Maxwell tries again

Robert Maxwell has made another takeover bid for Reading Football Club. However, the Oxford-based chairman's written offer of £5 a share is unlikely to meet with much response as major shareholders are firmly committed to Roger Stone, expected to be confirmed as chairman at an extraordinary general meeting on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Reading director Roy Rafter has called on the Football League to "step in and put a stop to Mr Maxwell's antics". They are "very venting reading football club from making plans for the future".

A takeover bid for Southend United has proved more successful. A three-man consortium of local businessmen have bought out majority shareholders, chairman Mark Rubin and his brother, Tony, and promised to invest heavily in the club. Rubin, whose family has controlled Southend since 1961, said: "These people have a passionate interest in the club and their's has been the first genuine bid to have received which would ensure Southend getting back on the footballing map". Anton Johnson, the Rotherham chairman, is behind the move.

## Overriding: demanding

match the Lions are good enough to win. However, should the weather turn sour, the All Blacks must be favoured. Their three Wellington backs, Wilson, Fraser and Hewson, are expert in playing the wet-weather, or wind-blown tactics their home ground demands.

A minimum four-week lay-off by Poulter could have serious repercussions for the British European championships team, which will be selected at the end of July. A full-fit Poulter could reasonably have been expected to challenge for medals in the 400 metres individual medley and 200 metres butterfly events at the championships in Rome in August.

Davey, aged 18, is also a recent invalid, having missed four months training between December and April because of an operation to correct a spinal curvature which is prone to dislocation. In Rome, Davey will be competing at top level for the first time in six months, yet he will be our busiest competitor with a five event programme (200 and 400 metres individual medley, 200 and 400 metres freestyle and 200 metres backstroke). That will certainly help him towards the race fitness he badly needs.

At least 12 nations will be represented in Rome, including the Soviet Union and a Swedish team at full strength for an official international match against Italy. The men's 100 metres freestyle should therefore provide the most individual medley, 200 and 400 metres freestyle and 200 metres backstroke. That will certainly help him towards the race fitness he badly needs.

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## YACHTING

# Connor reaching his pique

In the fourth of a series on the America's Cup, BARRY PICKTHALL reports on the current state of the competition.

In what must be the most concerted effort yet to wrest the America's Cup from the New York Yacht Club, where it has remained for 132 years, seven challenging nations are between them and outpacing the American syndicates three to one, yet remain underdog for the challenge, which begins tomorrow.

For this second attempt the American has put in more than 2,000 hours at sea — a time matched only by the British — and discarded two new 12s and helped to design a third in his search for a faster boat to Freedom, the 1980 winner.

Whether Liberty, the Fort Schuyler syndicate's latest yacht, is up to scratch will not be known until today, when the master announces his final choice for the Cup races.

Connor's principal rival for the defender's berth is Tom Blackaller, a 43-year-old Californian and twice Starclass world champion. Blackaller and his team operating on a much smaller budget than the Fort Schuyler syndicate, have persevered with just one new 12, a Pedrick design aptly named Defender which they are good enough to win. They also know that defeat could end the fabric of their tour and make the last month an ordeal.

One aspect likely to set this Cup series apart is the acrimony developing between the challengers and the British — and the British Victory challenge in particular. Connor takes deep exception to the continual surveillance carried out, first by the British and now by other challengers, during his preparations.

Blackaller is said to have been piqued that the Victory team failed to show the same degree of interest in his preparations last year. He even sent a message to the Victory team offering to subscribe to their surveillance service.

Connor discounts the British pairing with Richmond awaiting the winners.

Camborne, who was the surprise national semi-finalist last year, are through to the last four of Group 16 against Painsford. Old Hill, who were beaten by three runs by Scarborough in last season's semi-finals, and who are the leaders of the powerful Birmingham League, host a home game with Shrewsbury on Sunday in search of a place in the final of the North Midlands-based Group 12.

They will, however, be without Mushtaq Mohammad, the former Pakistan Test player, who is ruled out because of his professional status.

In the Whitbread Village championship, Toudy, victors over St

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## APPOINTMENTS

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## Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

8.00 **Crest** ABC News headlines, sport, traffic and weather information available to everybody, telecast owners or not.

8.30 **Breakfast Time**: Includes news at 8.30, 7.00, 6.00 and 5.30; regional news at 8.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 6.15; Sport at 6.45, 7.15 and 8.15; Keep fit between 6.45 and 7.00; Television (7.15-7.30); Gardening (7.30-7.45); Morning papers (7.45 and 8.30); Horoscope (8.30-8.45); Food and Cooking (8.45-9.00); Closedown at 9.00.

11.00 **For Schools**, Colleges: Maths Games (1). Closedown at 11.15.

1.00 **News** with Richard Whitmore and Sarah Jane Smith. 1.27 **Financial Report**. And subtitled news headlines: 1.30 **Postman Pat**; 2.02 **For Schools**, Colleges: James is Our Brother.

2.30 **International Tennis**: Live coverage of the semi-finals play in the BMW Championships from Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. It continues on BBC2 during the afternoon, with highlights on BBC2 tonight at 11.55.

3.55 **Play School** (on BBC2, 10.15am). 4.00 **The New Schmoes**: cartoon; 4.40 **Roger and Co** with ventriloquist Ward Allen and Ken Wood (7.45); 4.55 **Newsworld Extra** with John Craven and Paul McDowell.

5.05 **Hunter's Gold**: Episode 5 of this drama series set in the New Zealand goldfields of the 1880s (7.45); 5.30 **Robbers**.

5.40 **News** with Richard Whitmore; 6.00 **South East Six** and, at 6.25, **Midweek** on the eve of the Le Mans endurance race, Nationwide features the story of Steve O'Rourke, manager of the Pink Floyd, and the British-built EMKA Aston Martin in which he has invested some £250,000 of his own cash.

6.50 **Duffy Duck**: cartoon.

7.00 **The Good Life**: The Goods (Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal) persuade Margo (Penelope Keith) to go with them to evening classes - to the delight of Jerry (Paul Eddington). The delight is, however, to be short-lived (7.30).

7.30 **Odd One Out**: Word, music and picture game, conducted with many a merry quip by Paul Daniels.

8.00 **The Time of Your Life**: The comedian (and lately, straight actor) Norman Wisdom explains why Christmas 1953 proved to be a turning point in his life. Other famous people also look back at that year, and recall special memories. (See Choice.)

8.30 **Emery**: The comedy thriller Jack of Diamonds continues, with private eye Bernie Wainwright (the late Dick Emery) still on the trail of the hidden diamonds. This is episode three.

9.00 **News** with Michael Buerk. And weather prospects.

9.25 **Cagney and Lacey**: The two women police officers and their charm are looking forward to getting away for the Christmas Eve celebrations - but the fun fades when a "Santa Claus" is arrested.

10.15 **A Family Band**: Roy Castle introduces The Paynes from Orkney and The Taylors from Hayes; 10.45 **News**.

10.50 **Film**: *Talk Baby* (1972). Comedy drama, with Kiel Martin and Mel Stewart as the two confidence tricksters who trick an elderly man out of 10,000 dollars not realising that his nephew is a Mafia boss. Directed by Larry Yusk. Ends at 12.25am.

**Sports coverage** could be disrupted, or cancelled, through an industrial dispute.

## TV-am

8.25 **Good Morning Britain** (presenters Anne Diamond and Nick Owen). Includes news at 8.25, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; Keith Mitchell at 8.35; Carleton at 8.45; David Rappaport and the morning papers at 7.00; Sport at 7.45; Pop (Roman Holiday) at 7.45; Fantasy Time (Tony Blackburn) at 8.05; Television (8.05-8.20); Gardening (8.20-8.45); Morning papers (7.32 and 8.32); Horoscope (8.30-8.45); Food and Cooking (8.45-9.00); Closedown at 9.00.

## ITV/LONDON

8.25 **Thames News Headlines**; 9.30 **For Schools**; 9.55 **Insects**; 10.15 **More Waste**; 10.35 **French Programme**; 10.58 **Brill**; 11.15 **At the seashore**; 11.32 **Local colour**; 11.45 **Wood** (for the hard of hearing); 12.00 **Topper's Tales** with the late Julian Orchard (7.12.10); 12.30 **Do It Yourself**: Household hints for the adventurous woman. Steam-cleaning carpets and beautifying the bathroom.

1.00 **News**; 1.20 **Thames area news**; 1.30 **About Britain**; JR **Bliss Back**. A programme celebrating the first 100 years of the Jack Russell terrier.

2.00 **Best Sellers**: Condonium... When the Hurricane Struck. Part 2 of this adventure yarn about a badly-built apartment block in the path of a hurricane (7.45).

3.55 **Play School** (on BBC2, 10.15am). 4.00 **The New Schmoes**: cartoon; 4.40 **Roger and Co** with ventriloquist Ward Allen and Ken Wood (7.45); 4.55 **Newsworld Extra** with John Craven and Paul McDowell.

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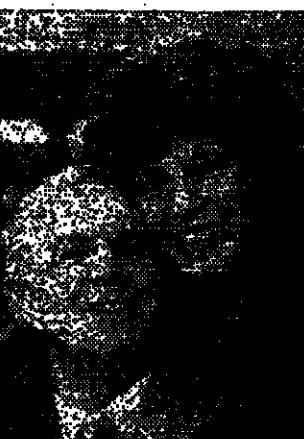
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**Sports coverage** could be disrupted, or cancelled, through an industrial dispute.



John Stride and Rula Lenska BBC 2, 9.25pm

Wild horses would not drag me from the nature of the denouement of Hugh Jones's two-handed CONVERSATIONS WITH A STRANGER (BBC 2, 9.25pm), especially as the BBC has also made a special plea for me to keep mum. None the less, the photograph which I reproduce on the left, which comes from the Corporation's publicity department, practically gives the game away. But enough of that. The conversation place is set in an out-of-season (i.e. February) Bath, with a snowfall pending and an Italian patisserie in the background. (Mr John Stride) is a painter, somewhat concerned about the permanence of his reputation (the Rula Lenska, first spotted by him (and us) across a mound of sticky mud, proclaims herself Italian, pretending she has

## CHOICE

no English so that, she says, she can keep would-be lovers at bay. The apparent contradiction between this odd way of carrying on and her own assertion that "a woman can feel safe in Bath", offers another clue to the outcome of this literary encounter which, like some Shavian exchanges that it echoes, goes on just that bit too long.

Primarily a salute to Norman Wisdom and his first film, THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE (BBC 1, 8.00pm), is a hugely enjoyable mélange of things 1953: everything from Molly Parkin at the shocking Chelsea Arts Ball ("I arrived"), Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men (all the studio trickery exposed at last), killer smog, Beverly

## Sisters, and Mr Wisdom himself, in nerve-rackingly good form.

Radio highlights: Michael Bakewell's assessment of the poet John Cowper Powys, ALL OR NOTHING (Radio 3, 8.00pm) includes extracts from some of his quite extraordinary love letters, read by Robert Stephens... The performance of Holst's The Planets (Radio 3, 10.00pm) is of the version the composer himself made for two pianos. The performers: Richard Markham and David Nettle... Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring is among the works played by the Bavarian Radio SO in tonight's concert from Munich (Radio 3, 8.25pm). The all-Bethoven first half (starting at 7.15) includes the Ninth Symphony playing the Piano Concerto No 3. Seiji Ozawa conducts.

## BBC 2

8.05 **Open University** (until 8.10). Maths; Catenary Approximation; 8.30 Chemistry; pure organic compounds; 8.55 **Ring of Steel**; 7.50 Science; Quantum Theory; 7.45 Engineering; Root Locus.

10.15 **Play School**: Robina Beckies-Wilson's Good Morning and Good Night (also on BBC 1, 9.55); Closedown at 10.40.

1.30 **Tennis**: Royal Ascot. The final day of the colourful racing and fashion occasion. We see the 2.30 (Windsor Castle Stakes), 3.05 (Hardwicke Stakes), 3.45 (Wokingham Stakes) and the 4.20 The King's Stand Stakes. And there is live coverage of the semi-finals of BMW Tennis Championships at Eastbourne.

1.00 **News**; 1.20 **Thames area news**; 1.30 **About Britain**; JR **Bliss Back**. A programme celebrating the first 100 years of the Jack Russell terrier.

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## Radio 4

8.00 **News Briefing**; 8.10 **Farming Today**; 8.25 **Shipping Forecast**; 8.30 **Today**, including 8.45 **Prayer for the Day**; 8.55 **Weather**; 9.00 **6.00 Today's News**; 9.25, 9.55 **News**; 10.00 **Today's News**; 10.25 **Woman's Hour**; 10.50 **Today's News**; 11.00 **Today's News**; 11.25 **Woman's Hour**; 11.50 **Today's News**; 12.00 **Today's News**; 12.25 **Woman's Hour**; 12.50 **Today's News**; 1.00 **Today's News**; 1.25 **Woman's Hour**; 1.50 **Today's News**; 2.00 **Today's News**; 2.25 **Woman's Hour**; 2.50 **Today's News**; 3.00 **Today's News**; 3.25 **Woman's Hour**; 3.50 **Today's News**; 4.00 **Today's News**; 4.25 **Woman's Hour**; 4.50 **Today's News**; 5.00 **Today's News**; 5.25 **Woman's Hour**; 5.50 **Today's News**; 6.00 **Today's News**; 6.25 **Woman's Hour**; 6.50 **Today's News**; 7.00 **Today's News**; 7.25 **Woman's Hour**; 7.50 **Today's News**; 8.00 **Today's News**; 8.25 **Woman's Hour**; 8.50 **Today's News**; 9.00 **Today's News**; 9.25 **Woman's Hour**; 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Roses in Picardy: Mr Deighton lays a wreath at the grave of his fallen comrade.

Photographs: Brian Harris



Historical landmark: Somme veteran Ernest Deighton follows the line of a British trench at Delville Wood.

## Quiet reflection where once was a monstrous roar

By Alan Hamilton

There are not many left now, and soon there will be none. Old age hits even more, surely than the murderous guns of the Somme which, 67 years ago, slaughtered and wounded nearly half a million Allied men in a little more than four months.

Nine veterans, bowed with the weight of medals and years but with memories bayonet-sharp of their day in Hell, returned this week to the fields of Picardy where a generation was lost, to recall macabre escapes and to honour dead comrades. There will be few more such pilgrimages by those who were there.

Time has healed the blasted heath where, in 1916, men drowned in the mud and no blades of grass remained and splintered stumps of trees. Replanted woods have grown to maturity, the trenches are little more than shadows across the cornfields, and where once the monstrous roar of artillery made eardrums bleed the air is filled with the rustle of growing barley and the song of skylarks.

To those born long after, Hell is difficult to picture on

the rich chalk farmland under the wide summer skies. Yet almost every other field has its war cemetery with up to 5,000 white headstones drilled in immaculately-tended order, and on Thiepval Ridge the massive Latrains Memorial to the missing of the Somme has 73,412 names cut on its panels.

Those thousands lie under the fields, along with their equipment. Every winter the ploughs turn up tons of shells and lumps of rusty iron, which the farmers pile by the roadside. Only two months ago a curious Frenchman was blown to pieces in front of his family as he reclaimed a rusty artillery shell for his collection.

To those who were there, the memory remains in sharp detail, but the exact locations of their individual baptisms of fire are sometimes hard to find among the well-drilled rows of potatoes and the waving fields of maize.

Mr Ernest Deighton, now 89, was a marksman in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who attacked in the first wave on the first day of the battle, July 1. Nearly 20,000 men died on that day. Ernest was wounded in the

shoulder, beside him his comrade Clem Cunningham was shot dead through the chest. For five days Ernest lay in the shell-hole until he could crawl back to his trench.

His comrade faltered as he found Clem's headstone, laid his wreath, and wrote a shaky message of farewell in the cemetery visitors' book.



War cry: Comfort is provided by Lynn Macdonald, author of "Somme", after the wreath-laying.

Mr David Watson of the Fifth Royal Scots, now aged 87, was one of a company of 230 men who attacked High Wood on July 17; after an hour out he and ten others remained alive, no single officer or NCO among them. He had not been back since then, and he donned his glengarry bonnet for the first

time since the Armistice to lay his private wreath on the solitary memorial to the 51st Highland Division. But he cast around in vain for the ridge from which his suicidal assault was launched into the hailstorm of German machine gun fire.

Mr Len Lovell, now 86, belonged to the same regiment, and accompanied the first tank to High Wood, on September 15. He found the approximate spot where fell his comrade Bobby Pearce, one of 10,000 bodies which still lie beneath the thick undergrowth of brambles in the wood, since replanted and lovingly tended as a war grave.

Mr Ralph Langley, now 85 also took part in the attack on High Wood with his brother Charlie. When Charlie was killed, their mother shipped Ralph and had him brought back to England for being under age.

Charlie lies in the next row to Roland Leighton, fiancé of Vera Brittain. Hell is a place none of them has ever forgotten. They recall bodies blackened and bloated, infested with bluebottles after weeks in the sun because they could not be retrieved from No

## Five-power freeze plea by Moscow

Continued from page 1

win the East-West struggle by peaceful means.

The nuclear freeze was proposed by Mr Boris Ponomarev, a candidate Politburo member and foreign affairs specialist in the Central Committee Secretariat, who called on other nuclear powers to show responsibility and political will by agreeing to it.

Moscow has proposed a joint freeze with the United States before, but has not previously suggested a five-power freeze. The British and French deterrents have been the focus of Soviet arms propaganda since last December when Mr Andropov argued that Soviet medium-range missiles should be balanced against them.

As for China, Moscow is aware of Peking's anxieties over the possible redeployment of SS20s in the Soviet Far East, but is also aware that Chinese nuclear technology is not as advanced as that of the other four nuclear powers.

Photograph and Andropov acclaimed, page 5

## Pope's clear message of support

Continued from page 1

Socialist state organism strong and efficient.

The first day of the pilgrimage and above all, the Pope's Mass, showed that the church has no intention of abandoning fundamental elements of its mission in return for concessions from the Government.

The Pope, addressing hundreds of thousands of young and old Poles crammed into the Old Town district of Warsaw around the cathedral, declared: "Together with all my compatriots, especially with those who are most acutely tasting the bitterness of disappointment, humiliation, suffering, of being deprived of their freedom, of being wronged, of having their dignity trampled upon, I stand beneath the Cross of Christ."

Without explicitly expressing his support for the Solidarity supporters at bay, his backing was none the less clear enough to the audience. By quoting extensively from the late primate, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński's prison notebooks, he drove home the message.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

**Royal engagements**  
Princess Anne visits Staffordshire; opens Baggeridge Country Park near Dudley, 10.30; visits Tower Housewars, Wombourne, 11.50; attends a luncheon given by the Chairman of Staffordshire County Council, Wombourne Oundle High School, Wombourne, 12.50; visits Compow, Cannock Chase, 2.25, and the Technology Centre, Cannock Chase, 3.40.  
Princess Alexandra, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Infantry, attends Sounding of Retreat by the Massed Bands and Bugles of the Regiment, Raby Castle, Durham, 7.  
**New exhibitions**  
A Moment in Time: Scottish

contributions to photography 1840-1920; and Children's Photographic Exhibition, Impressions Gallery of Photography, 17 Colliergate, York, Tues to Sat 10 to 6 closed Sun and Mon; (both from today until July 16).  
**Architecture and Landscape**  
Manchester Polytechnic, Grosvenor Building, Cavendish Street, Manchester, Mon, Tues and Fri 10 to 7, Sat 10 to 4 closed Sun; (from today until June 21).  
**Degree Show: Work of students at Winchester School of Art, Winchester, Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sat 9 to 12, closed Sun; (from today until June 24).**

**Last chance to see**  
Kafka centenary exhibition: Paths out of Prague: the diffusion of Kafka's work, Taylor Institution, Oxford, Mon to Fri 2 to 5; (ends today).  
**Coltswood Art Club exhibition**  
Art Gallery and Museum, Clarence Street, Cheltenham, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).  
**Paintings by Graham Bannister**  
Nevill Gallery, 2a York Street, Bath, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).  
**Annual exhibition of work by local artists**  
Rushmore Museum, East Cliff, Bournemouth, Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Sun; (ends tomorrow).

**Music**  
Piano recital by Michael Jones, Peterborough Cathedral, 7.30.  
Concert by Laurence Groszok of Sweden, Canterbury Cathedral, 12.  
Concert by Yorkshire Chorus Brass, St Peter Mancroft, Norwich, 1.10.  
Belfast Folk Festival: Concert by Tommy and Colin Sands, Ulster Hall, Belfast, 6.  
Portsmouth Festival: Music of Spain, by Bournemouth Sinfonietta and Renaissance Choir, St John's Roman Catholic Cathedral, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, 7.30.  
Concert by London Symphony Orchestra, Ely Cathedral, 7.30.  
**General**  
Essex County Show, The Showground, Great Leighs, Chelmsford, all day today & tomorrow.  
Grand Firework Display & opening of Mersey River Festival, near Canning Dock, Pier Head, Liverpool, 10 pm.

**National Day**  
Today is National Day in Ireland, when the country celebrates independence from Denmark. The freedom struggle, which began in the nineteenth century, led to home rule under the Danish Crown in 1918 and to complete independence as a republic in 1944.  
It is also the Day of German Unity, a public holiday in West Germany, commemorating the brief uprising in East Germany against Communist rule in 1953.

**Anniversaries**  
Births: Edward I (reigned 1272-1307), London, 1239; John Wesley, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1703; Charles Gounod, Paris, 1818; Sir William Crookes, physicist, London, 1832.  
Deaths: Joseph A. Mason, London 1719.

### The pound

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.53	1.74
Belgium Fr	28.75	27.10
Canada \$	81.50	77.00
Denmark Kr	1.95	1.86
Finland Mk	14.55	13.80
France Fr	8.50	8.40
Germany DM	12.15	11.60
Greece Dr	4.06	3.85
Italy Lira	134.00	125.00
Norway Kr	11.53	10.88
Portugal Esc	167.00	154.00
Spain Ptas	239.00	227.00
Sweden Kr	11.57	10.97
Switzerland Fr	1.24	1.18
Yugoslavia Dnr	220.50	209.50
	12.07	11.55
	3.38	3.21
	1.57	1.51
	136.00	128.00

**Food prices**  
Fish prices are mostly unchanged since last week. Cornish fish are a little less, but silverfish, salmon and thick bank now range from £1.89-£2.34 a lb, and fillet steak £3.30-£4.40 a lb. Home produced lamb is slightly cheaper, with whole leg ranging from £1.60-£2.28 a lb, and whole shoulders from £1.57-£2.15 a lb. Stags' heads have all their special price category, whole leg £1.70 a lb and whole shoulder £1.12 a lb. Marks and Spencer have 20p a lb off chops and 40p a lb off their joints.  
Home-grown green vegetables are in fairly short supply, apart from Hops and Prime summer cabbages from 28-40p a lb, courgettes 45-70p a lb, asparagus 50p-£2, depending on grade. English new potatoes 10-16p and Jersey Royals, 12-17p a lb, are delicious.  
Spanish apricots 40-60p a lb, nectarines 12-35p each, peaches 8-30p each and Honeydew melons are all good buys. Strawberries are from 45p a punnet and raspberries can be found for around £1.20 a small punnet. Best lettuce buys are Cos and Wobbs 28-35p and 35-50p each. There are good supplies of beef tomatoes at 50-60p a lb, excellent quality hot-house tomatoes from 38-45p a lb, cucumbers are 26-35p each and spring onions 18-24p a bunch.

**Anniversaries**  
Births: Edward I (reigned 1272-1307), London, 1239; John Wesley, Epworth, Lincolnshire, 1703; Charles Gounod, Paris, 1818; Sir William Crookes, physicist, London, 1832.  
Deaths: Joseph A. Mason, London 1719.

**Prize Crossword in The Times tomorrow**  
CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

### Top films

**Top box-office films in London**  
(1) Return of the Jedi  
(2) Tootsie  
(3) The Hunger  
(4) Local Hero  
(5) Sophie's Choice  
(6) Educating Rita  
(7) The Dark Crystal  
(8) Private Practice/New Year's  
(9) Heat and Dust  
(10) Halloween II: Season of the Witch

**The top five in the provinces:**  
(1) Return of the Jedi  
(2) Tootsie  
(3) The Hunger  
(4) Educating Rita  
(5) The Dark Crystal  
Compiled by Screen International

### Roads

**London and South-east:** A3220: Redcliffe Gardens, Chelsea: reduced width; delays for southbound traffic. A13: Rippel Road, Barking: Lodge Avenue flyover closed; delay for westbound traffic. A132: Heavy traffic N of Chelmsford, Essex, because of Essex County Show, Chelmsford.  
**Midlands and East Angles:** M1: Lane closures at junction 19 (M6). A1: Lane closures between North M1 and Newmarket, Northamptonshire. M1: Lane closures between junctions 28 and 29 (A38, Mansfield to A617, Chesterfield).  
**North:** M6: Northbound lane closures between junctions 32 and 33 (M55, turn off to Lancaster South); diversions possible. A1: Temporary lights at Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland. A650: Lane closures on Bradford Road, Leeds, at M1 interchange.  
**Wales and West:** M5: Lane closures between junctions 8 (M50) and 9 (A58, Ashchurch), St James Street, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire. M9: Lane closures between junctions 5 and 7 (Orangemouth and Kincardine Bridge). A9: Lane closures on Pitlochry by-pass at north access to Pitlochry. A68: Temporary lights on Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh, near Highwoods Corner. Information supplied by the AA.

### Pollen forecast

	Pollen	Peak
Abundant	mod	8 to 9 pm
Bush	low	3 to 4 pm
Grass	mod	3 to 4 pm
Heather	low	3 to 4 pm
Orchard	mod	3 to 4 pm
Willow	mod	3 to 4 pm
Yew	mod	3 to 4 pm
Box	mod	3 to 4 pm
Almond	mod	3 to 4 pm
Apple	mod	3 to 4 pm
Cherry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Peach	mod	3 to 4 pm
Plum	mod	3 to 4 pm
Rose	mod	3 to 4 pm
Strawberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Blackberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Raspberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Gooseberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Loganberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Black currant	mod	3 to 4 pm
Red currant	mod	3 to 4 pm
White currant	mod	3 to 4 pm
Blackberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Raspberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Gooseberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Loganberry	mod	3 to 4 pm
Black currant	mod	3 to 4 pm
Red currant	mod	3 to 4 pm
White currant	mod	3 to 4 pm

**London**  
Yesterday: Temp: max 8 am to 6 pm, 18C (64F); min 6 pm to 8 am, 11C (52F). Humidity: 60%. Wind: 5 to 10 mph. Rain: 0.1 in. Fog: 0.1 in. Visibility: 0.1 in. Cloud: 0.1 in. Sunshine: 0.1 in. Moon: 0.1 in. Stars: 0.1 in. Planets: 0.1 in. Comets: 0.1 in. Meteors: 0.1 in. Auroras: 0.1 in. Solar flares: 0.1 in. Cosmic rays: 0.1 in. Gamma rays: 0.1 in. X-rays: 0.1 in. Ultraviolet: 0.1 in. Infrared: 0.1 in. Radio waves: 0.1 in. Microwaves: 0.1 in. Sound waves: 0.1 in. Light waves: 0.1 in. Matter waves: 0.1 in. Probability waves: 0.1 in. Quantum waves: 0.1 in. Gravitational waves: 0.1 in. Electromagnetic waves: 0.1 in. Mechanical waves: 0.1 in. Acoustic waves: 0.1 in. Seismic waves: 0.1 in. Ocean waves: 0.1 in. Wind waves: 0.1 in. Surface waves: 0.1 in. Body waves: 0.1 in. Love waves: 0.1 in. Rayleigh waves: 0.1 in. P waves: 0.1 in. S waves: 0.1 in. Surface gravity waves: 0.1 in. Capillary waves: 0.1 in. Gravity waves: 0.1 in. Rossby waves: 0.1 in. Kelvin waves: 0.1 in. 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